

BBC

# HISTORY

## REVEALED

Strictly shocking:  
10 dances that  
shook the world

**MURDER IN MUNICH**  
The bloody purge that put  
Hitler in power



**Dinner at  
Downton**  
How to eat like  
an Edwardian

# POMPEII

## THE DAY A ROMAN CITY DIED

**The unbelievable  
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Meet the performers  
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A suffocating cloud of ash snuffed out all life in Pompeii in AD 79

THIS MONTH WE'VE LEARNED...

That 13th-century globetrotter Marco Polo once **mistook a rhinoceros for a unicorn**. The Venetian spent 24 years travelling, mostly in China, where he was employed by Kublai Khan. See page 27



# From the ashes



In AD 79 – there is still debate about when – the Roman city of Pompeii was wiped out by a huge volcanic eruption. For centuries, it lay buried beneath a thick carpet of ash and debris until its rediscovery in 1748. Daisy Dunn explores **the lives of the people who lived there and the city's destruction** in this month's cover feature, from page 50.

This month sees the release of the long-awaited (for some) *Downton Abbey* film. Turn to page 37 to learn the **do's and don'ts of Edwardian etiquette** – from conversation to cutlery. And we'll be looking at another, more controversial, form of historical entertainment: **the Victorian freak show**. John Woolf examines the extraordinary and complex stories of 19th-century 'freak' performers, from page 67.

Elsewhere, we look back at **the Night of the Long Knives**, Hitler's bloody purge of Nazi leaders in 1934 (p42), and, to mark the new season of *Strictly Come Dancing* on BBC One, we discover **ten dance trends that shocked the world** (p61). We'll also be examining **the life of Venetian explorer Marco Polo**, whose adventures in China inspired generations of explorers (p27).

In other exciting news, **BBC History Revealed has a new online home, historyextra.com**, where you can find a wealth of historical content – from the Tudors to Ancient Egypt. Visit [historyextra.com](http://historyextra.com) and take a look around.

Have a great month!

**Charlotte Hodgman**  
Editor

*Charlotte*

**Don't miss our November issue, on sale 3 October**

## CONTRIBUTORS



**Daisy Dunn**  
The author and Classicist explores the Roman city of Pompeii – before and after the devastating eruption of Mount Vesuvius. See page 50.

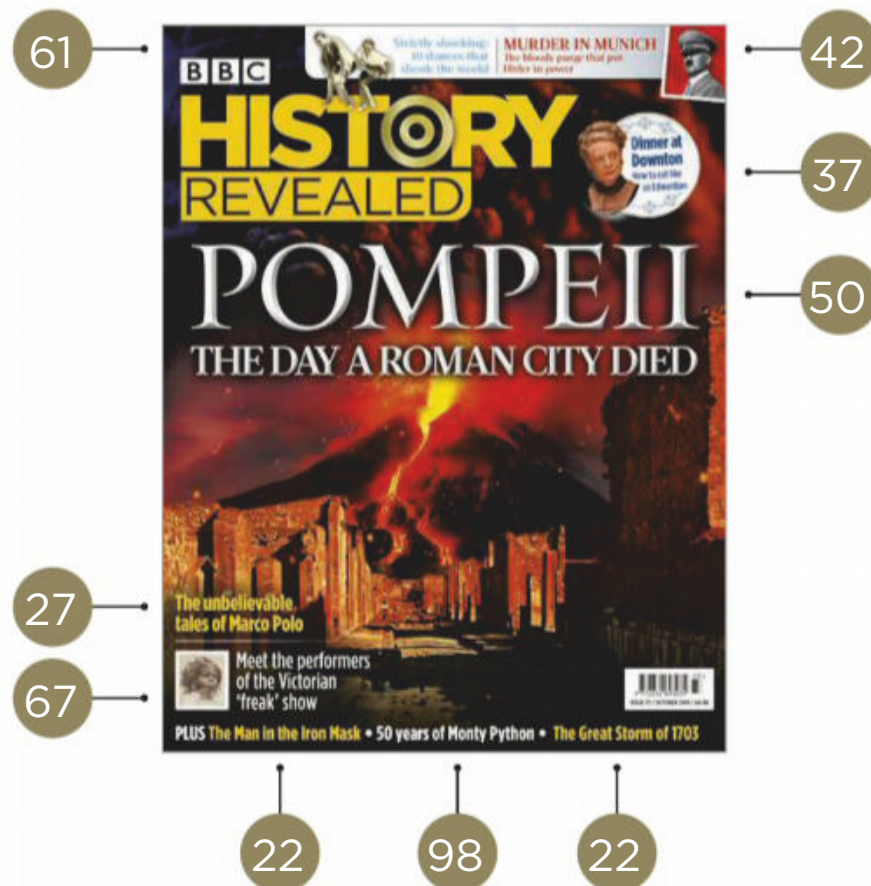


**Dominic Sandbrook**  
The historian and presenter talks about his latest book, on the economic and cultural changes of the early 1980s. See page 90.



**John Woolf**  
Historian John Woolf lifts the curtain on the extraordinary men and women who performed in Victorian freak shows. See page 67.

## ON THE COVER



### FIND US ONLINE

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▲ The 47 rōnin meet their end, with honour

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► Was Cromwell responsible for the atrocity at Wexford?



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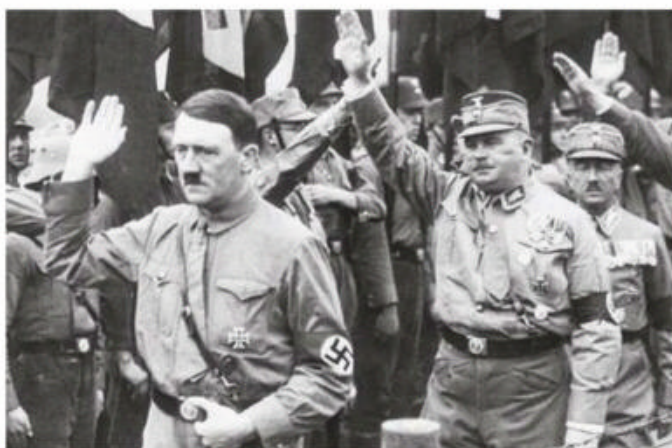
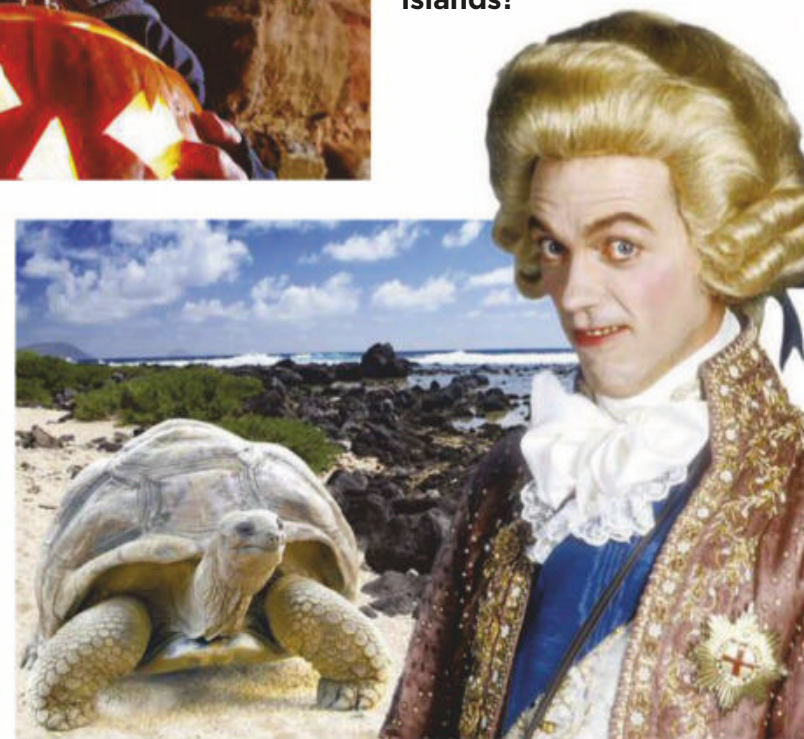
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**LIKE IT?  
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More details on our special offer on **p24**





# 1916 SICK LIKE A MULE

The sight of two German soldiers in their gas masks, alongside a mule sporting an animal-friendly nose bag version, serves as an eerie reminder of the ever-present threat of chemical attacks on the Western Front. The use of poison gases changed the face of World War I - in more ways than one. Gas masks became a vital part of kit for humans, and also the horses, mules, dogs and even carrier pigeons used to transport supplies, weapons and messages to the front.







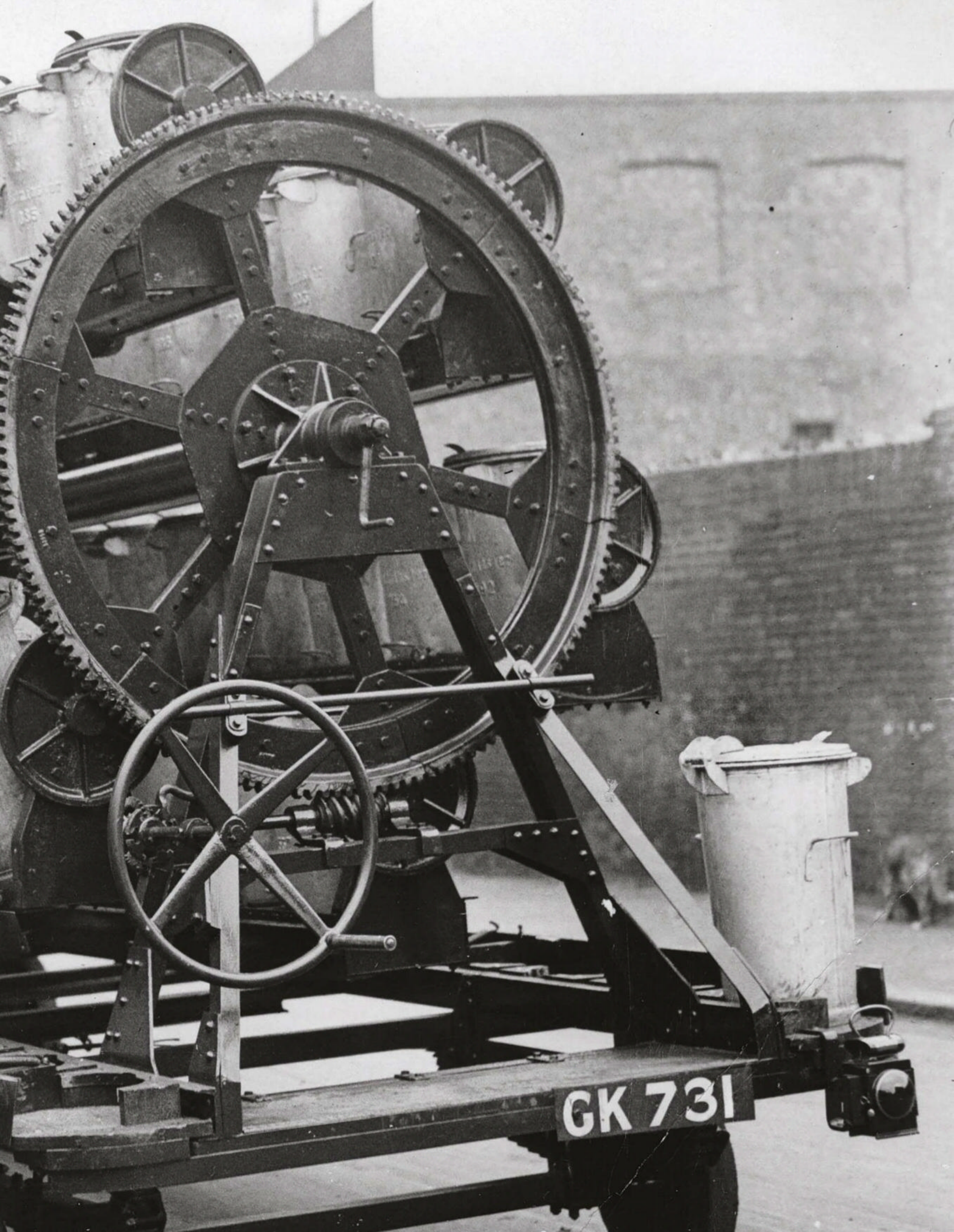


# 1930 BIN IN A SPIN

The Public Health Act of 1875 had made local councils in Britain responsible for taking away rubbish from outside people's homes, left in a 'movable receptacle'. This led, in the early days of the automobile, to a number of prototype garbage trucks. The designs (and usefulness) differed – from open-top carts to this unusual Ferris wheel contraption in London – before the idea of the back-loading vehicle with a compactor became the norm in the late 1930s.







GK 731



# 1956 PYRE TO THE PEOPLE

Supporters of the Hungarian Revolution show their opposition to Soviet rule by burning Russian books and propaganda looted from 'culture centres'. What started on 23 October 1956 as a student protest on the streets of Budapest became a violent uprising across the country. The Soviets reasserted their stranglehold on Hungary by invading less than two weeks later.







ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

# Word power

From the signing of the Treaty of Versailles in 1919 to Greta Thunberg in 2019, come and explore how writing has played its part in the peace process

If you look back over the last 100 years, it's incredible how the written word has been so powerful in helping to achieve peace and reconciliation in conflicts around the world. To celebrate this, a fascinating collection of books, photos and letters has been brought together for the Senate House Library's new free exhibition, *Writing in Times of Conflict*.

The journey begins in 1919 just after the signing of the Treaty of Versailles, a moment that marked the end of the First World War and sparked contemporary peace movements. The exhibition then explores some of the most significant military, environmental and economic conflicts that ensued right up to 2019, touching on current political issues such as Brexit, economic inequality and climate change.

You'll find many bold stories by well-known writers on display, including one of the first editions of John Maynard Keynes' *The Economic Consequences of the Peace*, which he completed after attending the Paris Peace Conference in 1919. There's also a rare signed first edition of *In Our Time* by Ernest Hemingway, and a hand-written letter from Virginia Woolf describing Second World War bombers flying overhead. Throughout the displays, unique photographs and documents give the writing context, such as one of the few surviving photostatic copies of the 'Nazi Black Book', listing peace activists and politicians targeted by the Gestapo. It was gifted to the library in 1945 by the Ministry of Information, which was based at Senate House during the Second World War.

Running until 14 December 2019, the free exhibition is a wonderful opportunity to explore the writing that called for peace at protests, in exile and during wartime, as well as giving you time for reflection when the world continues to face conflict.

## SEE IT ALL FOR FREE!

Everything on display in the *Writing in Times of Conflict* exhibition is part of the rich and extensive collection held at Senate House Library, London, including more than 2 million books, 50 unique Special Collections and more than 1,600 archives. It's one of the UK's largest academic libraries for the arts, humanities and social sciences, and all the more exciting for being set in a stunning Grade II-Listed art deco building in the heart of Bloomsbury.



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## HISTORY IN THE NEWS



The grave goods contained an ornate head piece (*main*) and this helmet (*below*)

### 'REAL-LIFE ASTERIX' FOUND IN WEST SUSSEX

A one-of-a-kind Gallic warrior burial has been revealed

Archaeologists have announced the discovery of an Iron Age warrior in West Sussex. Originally found on a building site in 2008, it has taken more than a decade for experts to carry out analysis and conservation work on the individual, who is thought to have hailed from Gaul – much like the character Asterix from the French comic series.

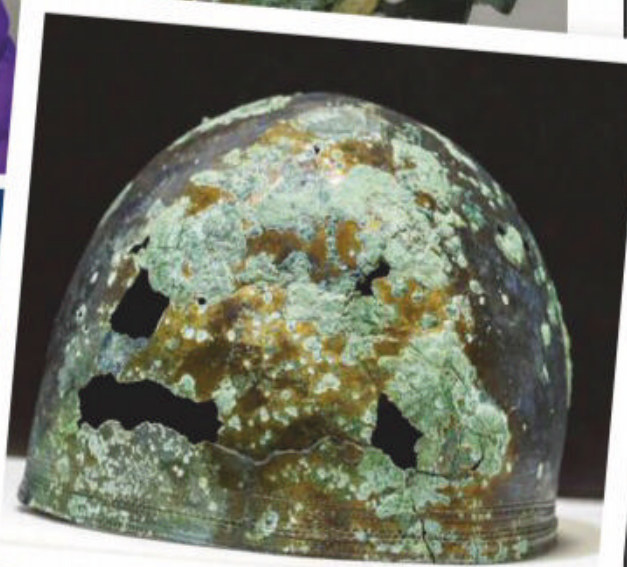
Buried with the warrior – whose grave is thought to date to 50 BC – was his ornate headdress, as well as

a trove of weapons. These included a deliberately bent, 'decommissioned' sword.

"It really is absolutely a unique find in the British Isles and in the wider continent," Dr Melanie Giles, senior lecturer in archaeology at the University of Manchester, told *The Telegraph*. "We don't have another burial that combines this quality of weaponry and Celtic art with a date that puts it around the time of Caesar's attempted conquest of Britain."

It's believed that he may have fled France as Julius Caesar's army moved through Europe.

"He is either someone from eastern England who may have gone and fought with the Gauls ... we were allies with the French, helping them with their struggle against him," said Giles. "Or he might be a Frenchman himself who flees that conflict, possibly a real-life Asterix and coming to us, just as in Asterix in Britain, to lend us aid in terms of the knowledge he has about strategy [and] tactics."



### COLOUR PHOTO

New York's 'cowboys of the sky'....p16



### YOUR HISTORY

Historian and archaeologist Sam Willis ....p17



### YESTERDAY'S PAPERS

The last Chinese emperor surrenders his throne..p18



### THIS MONTH IN... 1649

Cromwell sacks the Irish town of Wexford.....p20



### TIME CAPSULE: 1703

Mardi Gras comes to the US...p22





The marble memorial to 'Snow White' can be found in Bamberg

## 'SNOW WHITE'S' HEADSTONE ON DISPLAY

A German baroness may have been the inspiration for the 'fairest of them all'

The gravestone of an 18th-century woman who may have inspired the fairy tale *Snow White* has gone on display in Germany.

Maria Sophia von Erthal was a German baroness who lived in the castle at Lohr am Main, Bavaria. Her father was in charge of a mirror and glassworks, and gave his second wife Claudia (Maria's stepmother) a mirror that can still be seen in the museum of Lohr am Main Castle.

Claudia was believed to have been cruel and neglectful of her stepchildren – echoing the story of *Snow White* and her evil stepmother's enchanted mirror – and the family's story was well known by the time the Brothers Grimm came to write their dark tale in 1812. In a nearby town, there were mines that were so small that

only children or those of stunted growth could work in them, which may have served as inspiration for the seven dwarfs.

Maria died in 1796, unmarried, in a convent. Her gravestone was originally in a church – significant in itself, as women of this time were not usually given their own gravestones – but the church was later knocked down. The memorial fell into the hands of a local family, who gave it to the Diocesan Museum in Bamberg, where it is now on display.

Another contender for the woman who inspired *Snow White* is German countess Margaretha von Waldeck. A famed beauty, Margaretha's father owned many mines where children were used as labourers. She died of a mysterious illness in 1554, aged 21 – possibly the result of poisoning.

## DNA IDENTIFIES CONNECTICUT 'VAMPIRE'

A so-called 'vampire' buried 200 years ago has been identified thanks to DNA testing.

In the 1990s, an unusual grave was found in Griswold, Connecticut. The man inside had died in the late 18th century, probably from tuberculosis, but had been dug up again a few years later. His skull and limbs had been placed on top of his ribcage, a practice carried out on an individual who was suspected of being a vampire.

During the 18th and 19th centuries, a vampiric panic spread across the north-eastern US states at the same time as a tuberculosis epidemic. Many believed that those who had died from the disease were rising from the dead and infecting others.

The coffin had JB-55 inscribed on it, believed to be the occupant's initials and age at death. DNA profiling and surname prediction has now allowed researchers to identify the body as being that of farmer John Barber.



'JB-55', a suspected vampire, was more likely to have been a victim of tuberculosis

## HAS THE CHURCH OF THE APOSTLES BEEN FOUND?

A church has been found near the Sea of Galilee in Israel that some archaeologists believe could be the biblical Church of the Apostles – historical records show that a church was built over the home of Peter and Andrew, two disciples of Jesus.

According to preliminary testing, the recently unearthed remains could date from the 5th century AD. The discovery was also made in an area some believe was once the village of Bethsaida, referenced in the New Testament as the home of the two disciples.

## 55 feet

The height of a helter skelter installed in Norwich Cathedral's nave.

The Reverend Canon Andy Bryant said: "We have one of the greatest collections of medieval roof bosses anywhere in northern Europe. The trouble is they are so high up that most people never get a chance to really appreciate them."



## SEARCHING FOR ANNE FRANK'S BETRAYERS

A search is underway to find the people responsible for the discovery of Anne Frank and her family. As the persecution of Jews increased in the Nazi-occupied Netherlands, the Frank family and four people hid in an Amsterdam annexe for two years. They were discovered in August 1944 and sent to concentration camps. Only Otto, Anne's father, survived this ordeal.

More than 30 people have been suspected of betraying the Franks over the years, including a warehouse employee who worked beneath the group's hiding place.



# TIME PIECE

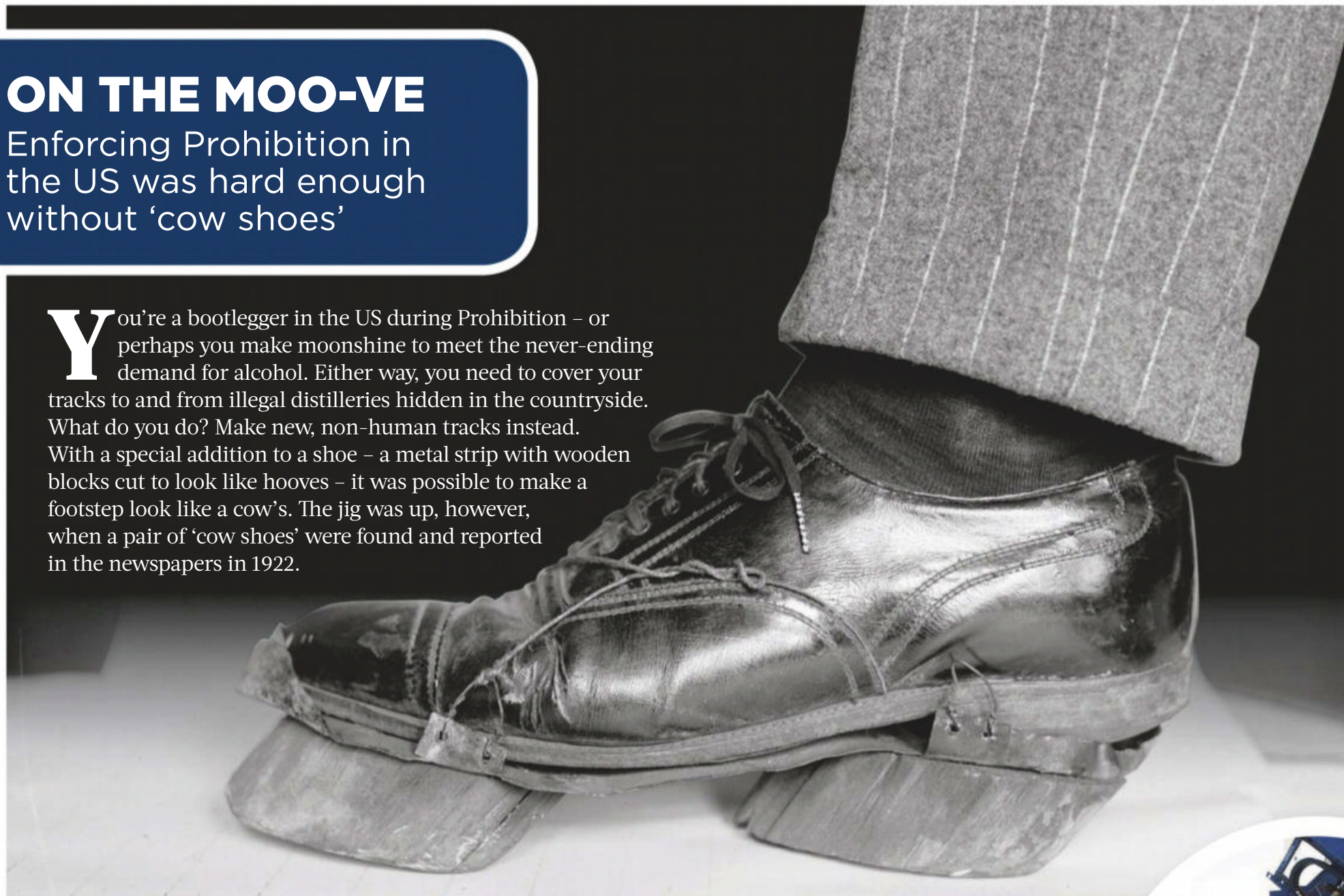
A look at everyday objects from the past

Supposedly, the idea for 'cow shoes' came from a Sherlock Holmes story

## ON THE MOO-VE

Enforcing Prohibition in the US was hard enough without 'cow shoes'

**Y**ou're a bootlegger in the US during Prohibition – or perhaps you make moonshine to meet the never-ending demand for alcohol. Either way, you need to cover your tracks to and from illegal distilleries hidden in the countryside. What do you do? Make new, non-human tracks instead. With a special addition to a shoe – a metal strip with wooden blocks cut to look like hooves – it was possible to make a footstep look like a cow's. The jig was up, however, when a pair of 'cow shoes' were found and reported in the newspapers in 1922.



## AGE OF DISCOVERY SHIP FOUND PERFECTLY PRESERVED

The Baltic Sea has been harbouring a treasure in its depths

**A** perfectly preserved ship from the Age of Discovery, a period of overseas exploration between the 15th and 17th centuries, has been discovered in the Baltic Sea.

Almost all of the *Mary Celeste* – not to be confused with the vessel found mysteriously deserted in 1872 – has been preserved, including the mast and guns.

"It demonstrates a remarkable level of preservation after five hundred years at the bottom of the sea," said archaeological project leader Dr Rodrigo

Paceheo-Ruiz, of the University of Southampton. "It's almost like it sank yesterday."

The ship was found at a depth of 120 metres, between Sweden and Estonia. It's believed that it was built in the early 16th century and sunk in an unknown naval battle. Possibly a Swedish or Danish merchant vessel, the *Mary Celeste* could have been involved in the Swedish War of Independence between 1521-23 or the Russo-Swedish War of 1554-57.



Researchers rely on robotic vehicles (*inset*) to explore wrecks like the *Mary Celeste*

DEEP SEA PRODUCTIONS/MMT X2



# HISTORY IN COLOUR

Colourised photographs that bring the past to life



## NEW YORK, 1920s

Seemingly undaunted by the 20-storey drop below, these ironworkers enjoy their lunch while working on a 152-metre-high skyscraper in Lower Manhattan. Their lack of safety ropes meant such workers became known as 'cowboys of the sky'. The Roaring Twenties saw a construction boom as companies competed to build ever higher. By 1931, New York's skyline had been completely transformed, with the Empire State Building towering over its neighbours at a grand 443.2-metres tall.

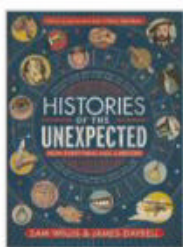
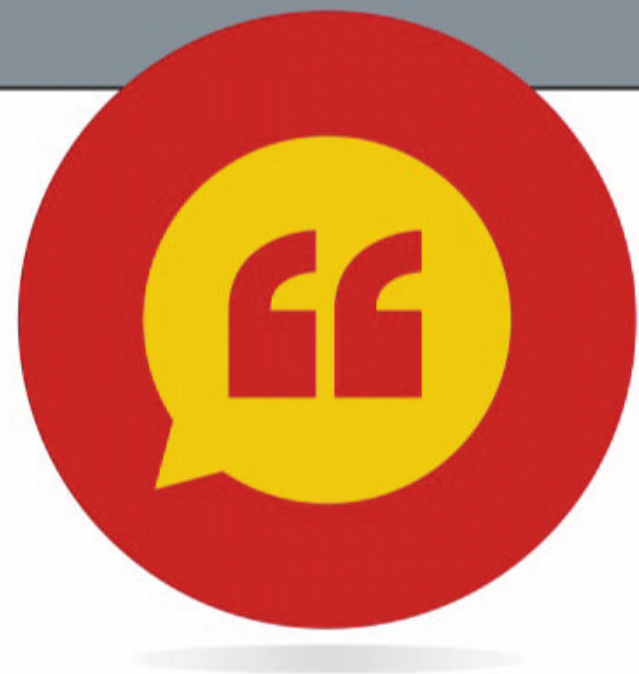
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# YOUR HISTORY

## Sam Willis

The historian, archaeologist and TV presenter explains why changing the past won't work and expresses the importance of recording your family history



*Histories of the Unexpected*, by Sam Willis and James Daybell, accompanies their popular podcast of the same name

Dr Sam Willis is a regular contributor to the BBC, presenting history programmes such as: *Nelson's Caribbean Hell Hole*, *The Silk Road* and *Invasion!*

**Q If you could turn back the clock, which single event in history would you want to change?**

Changing the past doesn't work unless it is something that has just happened. The potential implications of a change in the past are so stratospherically enormous that you cannot rely on it having the result intended, without a whole host of other unintended things happening. So when we think about changing the past, we are really trapped by the present. This morning, I burned my tongue on a hot cup of coffee and now have a huge ulcer. I wish that hadn't happened.

**Q If you could meet any figure from history, who would it be?**

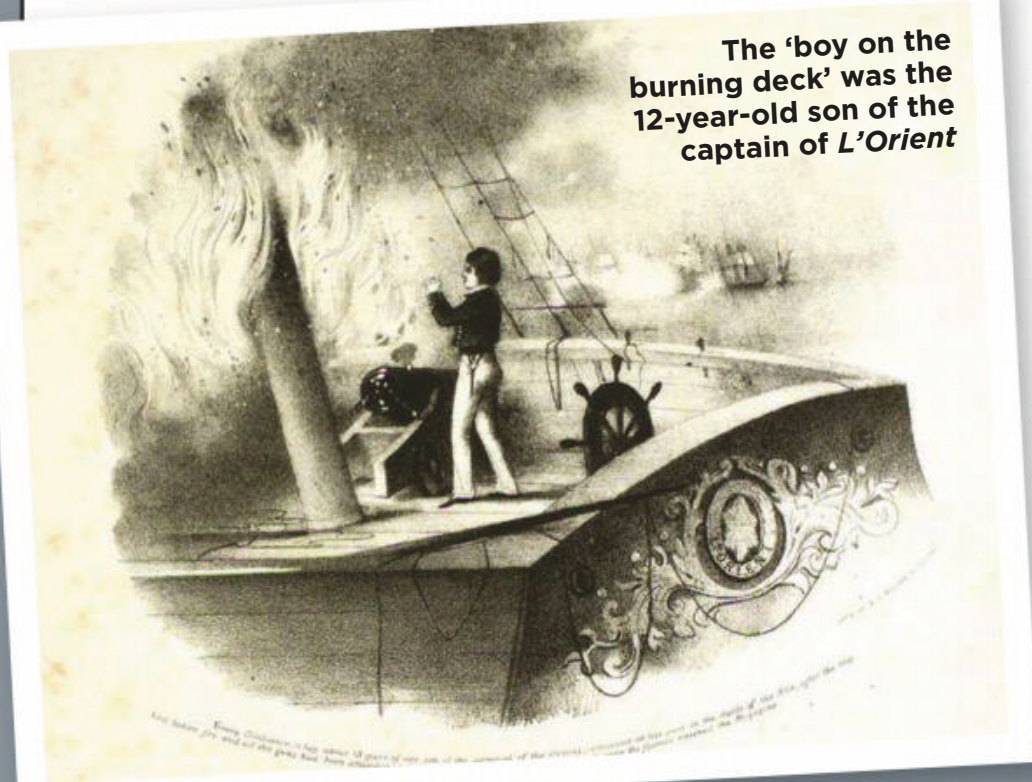
My grandfather – my father's father – recently died. I knew him well, but would meet him again and get him to tell me all of his family stories and what he knew about our relatives. I would write it all down and film it for my children to see and hear. I think that the older you get the more important identity becomes; history has a weight. I'd particularly ask him about the time that he met his wife, Pat. If it were not for that meeting, I wouldn't be here.

**Q If you could visit any historical landmark in the world tomorrow, where would you go?**

I'm currently really interested in New Zealand. I have never been. I would like to go to the Bay of Plenty, which James Cook 'discovered' in 1769 – even though there had already been people living there for more than four centuries. I would be fascinated to see to what extent that culture survived.

**Q Who is your unsung history hero?**

The 'boy on the burning deck' in Felicia Dorothea Hemans' poem *Casabianca*, which recreates a moment in the Battle of the Nile on 1 August 1798, when Horatio Nelson annihilated the French fleet. Towards the end of the battle, a child was seen on the decks of the French flagship *L'Orient*, which was on fire. Hemans imagined that moment for the opening of her poem, which became one of the most famous poems about childhood ever written:  
*The boy stood on the burning deck,  
Whence all but he had fled;  
The flame that lit the battle's wreck,  
Shone round him o'er the dead.  
Yet beautiful and bright he stood,  
As born to rule the storm;  
A creature of heroic blood,  
A proud, though childlike form.*



**“The older you get the more important identity becomes”**



# The Daily Mirror

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PU YI, CHINA'S FIVE-YEAR-OLD EMPEROR, WHOM THE REVOLUTIONARIES  
ARE SEEKING TO DEPOSE.



Dr. Sun Yat Sen.

The Regent and his second son.

The Emperor.

China is in the throes of a revolution, the aim of which is nothing less than the overthrow of the Manchu dynasty and the establishment of a Republic. Pu Yi, the present Emperor, who is now five and a half, came to the throne when only three years old. Ruler over 350,000,000 souls, he lives a life secluded from the world,

even his mother only being allowed to pay him occasional visits. In the palace he is addressed as Wan-Sui-Yeh (Lord of Ten Thousand Years). Prince Chun, the Regent, is the little Emperor's father. Dr. Sun Yat Sen is named as the President of the first Republic—if it is established.



# YESTERDAY'S PAPERS

Another timeless front page from the archives

## CHINA'S LAST EMPEROR IS FORCED TO ABDICATE

Pu Yi could do nothing to prevent the end of the Qing dynasty, and 2,000 years of Imperial rule

**R**evolution swept through China in 1911, fuelled by a desire to overthrow the steeply declining Qing dynasty and encouraged by the fact that the country was being ruled by a child.

Pu Yi had come to the throne three years earlier, when he was just two. His predecessor, an uncle known as the Guangxu Emperor, had died childless in 1908, so the Empress Dowager Cixi – who had long been the real power behind the throne and was rumoured to have poisoned the former emperor – chose Pu Yi to succeed him. The 72-year-old Empress Dowager may have hoped to rule in the toddler's stead, but the next day she too died suddenly, leaving China without an emperor or its de facto ruler.

A lavish ceremony on 2 December 1908 saw Pu Yi crowned, but he had to be carried into the ceremony by his father, who was named as regent, and the infant cried the entire time. It hardly served as a strong display for the new government.

The regency ruled in Pu Yi's name, while the Emperor himself began a programme of extensive training to prepare him for his royal duties. Given that he was no longer considered a child, but an emperor, his courtiers showed absolute deference to him, which left a lasting mark on his behaviour. He especially enjoyed having eunuchs flogged.

The Qing dynasty had held power for more than 250 years, but were regarded as outsiders and obstacles to modernisation. The current government was seen as incompetent, responsible for a series of unsuccessful conflicts with other nations, and headed by a weak, child emperor. To those seeking change in China, it was the time to strike. The spark

came on 10 October 1911, when a mutiny broke out among soldiers in Wuchang, marking the start of the Xinhai Revolution. The Qing were helpless as cities and provinces declared against them and, in December 1911, an exiled revolutionary named Sun Yat-sen returned to become the provisional president of the new Republic of China.

The little emperor, now six, was forced to abdicate on 12 February, bringing to an end more than 2,000 years of Imperial rule. Not that life changed much for Pu Yi; he was allowed to keep his title, lifestyle and palace – though it was essentially now a prison.

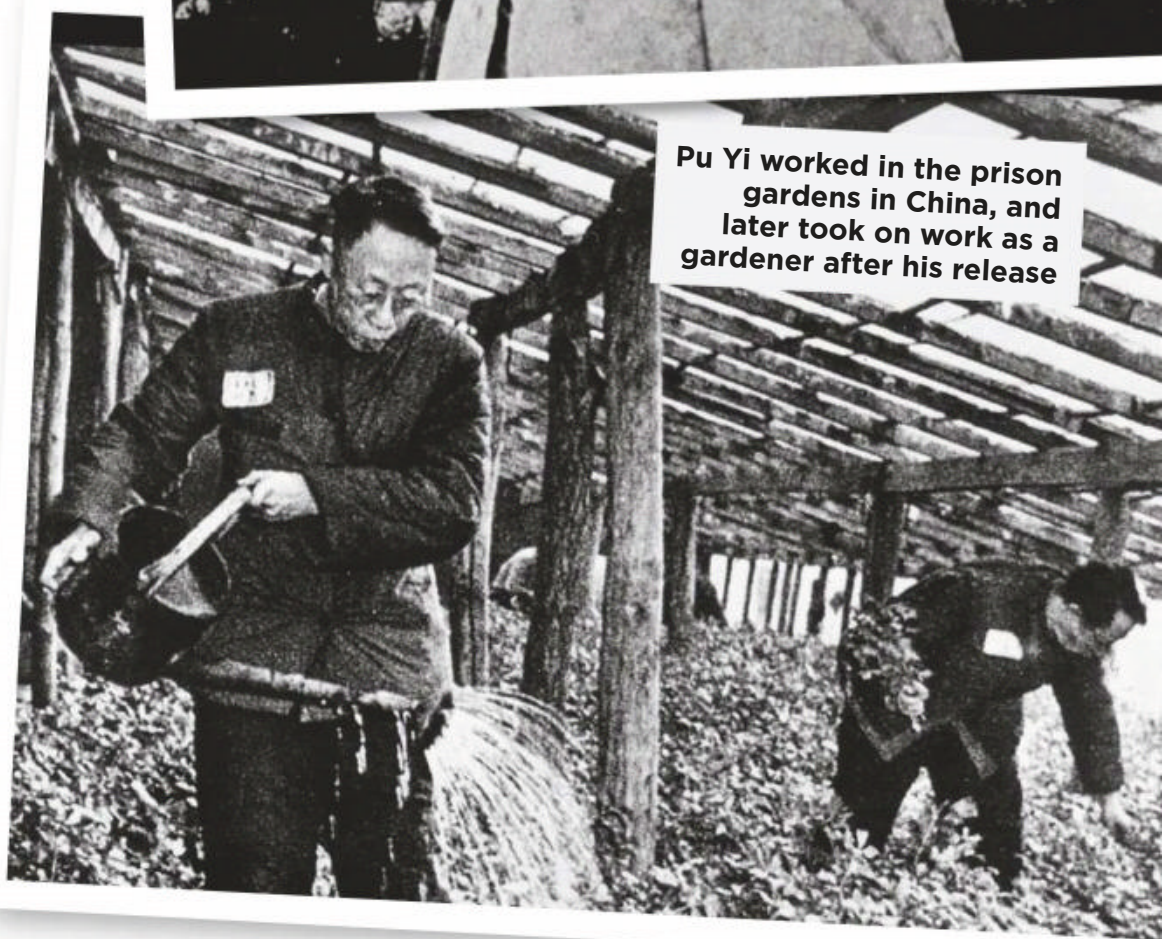
Even as an adult, Pu Yi struggled to exert control over his life. He was exiled in 1924, installed as president of the Japanese puppet-state of Manchukuo in Manchuria, and taken prisoner by the Soviets, before being returned to China in 1950. Pardoned in 1959, Pu Yi lived out his days as a regular citizen until his death in 1967, aged 61. 

**3** *Sunday Feature* examines the aftermath of the fall of the Qing dynasty: [www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00xn9y3](http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00xn9y3)

Cixi had been the power behind the throne for 47 years



Pu Yi worked in the prison gardens in China, and later took on work as a gardener after his release





# THIS MONTH IN... 1649

Anniversaries that have made history

## WEXFORD IS SACKED

In what is still remembered as one of the worst atrocities on Irish soil, the New Model Army lays waste to the town of Wexford

**D**uring the Cromwellian conquest of Ireland – part of the British Civil Wars – the port town of Wexford was subject to a ferocious slaughter at the hands of the New Model Army, a professional military unit created by the English Parliament in 1645 to defeat the Royalist forces of King Charles I. Still regarded as an atrocity to this day, the sack of Wexford saw the New Model Army storm the town in the midst of ongoing peace negotiations, stopping little short of razing it to the ground.

It had begun nine days earlier, on 2 October, when English Parliamentary commander Oliver Cromwell and 6,000 men had arrived at Wexford with a train of siege guns and mortars. The reason they were in Ireland goes back to 1648, when the Irish Confederates – a group of Catholic nobles, clergy and military leaders – pledged their allegiance to Charles I, on the promise that if and when the King returned to power, Roman Catholics would have religious freedom in Ireland. But Charles I did not regain his throne, and after his execution in January 1649 Parliament commissioned Cromwell to quash any Irish resistance to the nascent English Commonwealth, which had been established in the wake of the King's death.

Cromwell had landed in Dublin – the Parliamentarians' last Irish outpost – in August 1649, and overran the port town of Drogheda the following month. His aim was to seize all of the ports on the eastern coast, which were to become resupply points for a wider invasion. Wexford, which doubled as a base for Irish privateers who raised revenue by raiding English ships, was the next obvious target.

The town garrison, 1,500-strong, was commanded by David Sinnot. He knew he could not beat Cromwell with those numbers, but he had the imagination to string out the negotiations to surrender, in the hope that nearby Royalist forces would march to the town's aid.




**The fate of Drogheda sowed fear at Wexford long before Cromwell's arrival – there, as at Wexford, his men marauded through the streets, killing and looting as they went**

To that end, he added conditions to the surrender that he knew Cromwell would never agree to, including the free practice of Catholicism, the free passage of the garrison with all of their arms intact, and the free passage of Wexford's privateer fleet to an ally port. In the meantime, Sinnot was able to strengthen his garrison from 1,500 to 4,800.

By 11 October, Cromwell was done waiting. He signalled his guns into life, and they breached the walls of Wexford Castle short order. Negotiations for a surrender were reopened in earnest, but that same day, the New Model Army attacked; there is still debate as to who gave the order. Caught unawares, most of the defenders fled their

posts in terror – many tried to escape across the River Slaney, but drowned or were shot as they swam. Just 20 of Cromwell's men perished during the attack, while in Wexford, 2,000 defenders and an estimated 1,500 civilians were killed.

Cromwell later denied giving any order to launch an attack – his last letter to Sinnot implied that no harm would come to the town's inhabitants. But he is not believed to have taken any steps to stop it, either. In the aftermath, Cromwell claimed that his men's actions were justified, as revenge for the acts of the privateers who were harboured by the town and what he claimed to be bad treatment of Protestants. 



Cromwell's conquest of Wexford was brutal, and its aftermath for the conquered no less so. He would go on to pass laws against Roman Catholics and forcibly requisition their lands

A portrait of Oliver Cromwell, showing him from the chest up. He is wearing a dark, ornate military jacket with gold buttons and a white ruffled collar. He has dark, wavy hair and a serious expression. The background is a dark, textured blue.

**“No violence shall be offered to [the people’s] goods, and I shall protect the town from plunder”**

*Oliver Cromwell, in a letter Wexford's commander on 11 October, the day of the assault*



# TIME CAPSULE 1703

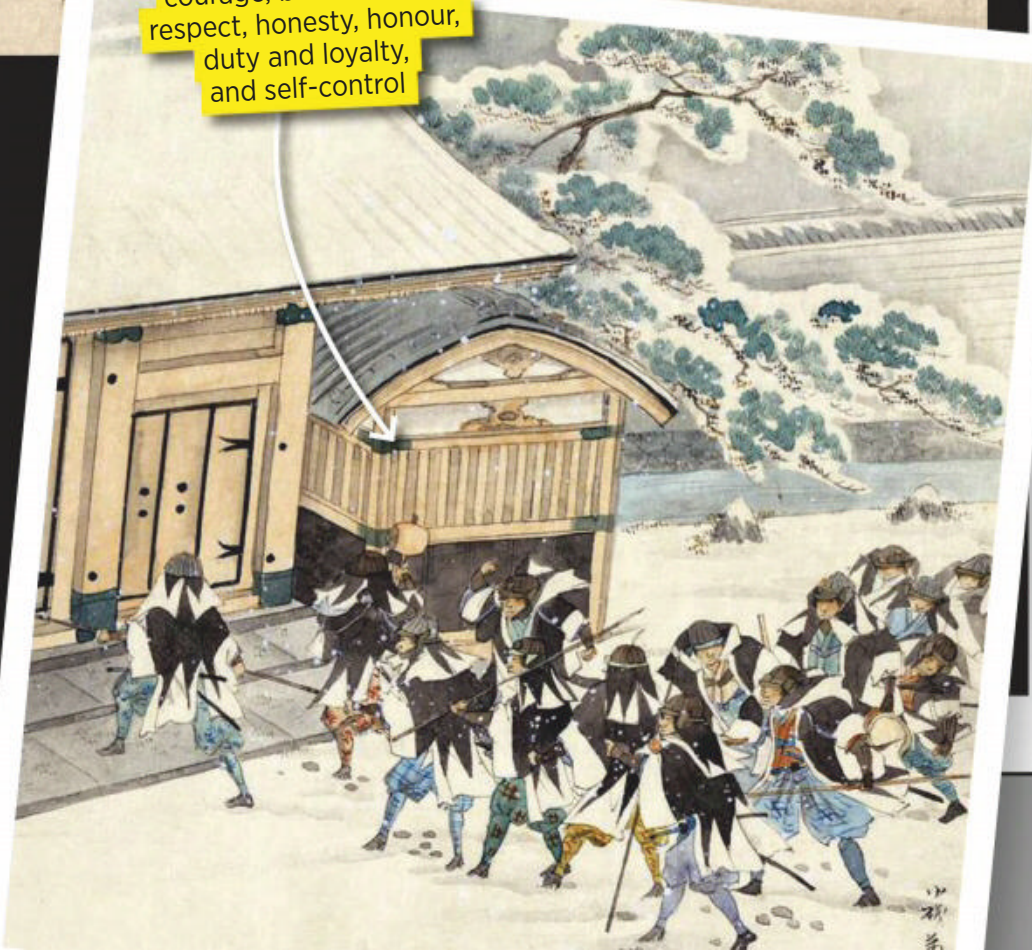
Snapshots of the world from one year in the past



## THE 47 RŌNIN PAY FOR THEIR CRIME

In early 1703, 46 out of the famed '47 rōnin' (masterless samurai) committed seppuku, a ritual suicide by self-disembowelment. The warriors had become outcasts two years previous, after their lord had been forced to kill himself in the same way - his punishment for attacking an imperial official who had publicly humiliated him. To restore their honour, and that of their leader, the loyal rōnin plotted retribution. It came in January 1703, when they stole into the official's residence and cut off his head. The rōnin knew they would be sentenced to death for the killing, but - rather than be executed as criminals - were permitted to commit seppuku, and thus have an honourable demise. Forty-six of them slit open their bellies, but the 47th was spared, possibly on account of his young age.

The samurai code had eight virtues: righteousness, courage, benevolence, respect, honesty, honour, duty and loyalty, and self-control







## MARDI GRAS COMES TO THE US

Mobile, Alabama, saw the arrival of the first Mardi Gras carnival in the US, when a number of newly-arrived French settlers held a small celebration in 1703. Mardi Gras – translated from French as Fat Tuesday – is a carnival celebrating Shrove Tuesday. An important day in the Christian calendar, it gets its name from the practice of eating indulgent foods that will be given up over Lent, which begins the next day. The tradition became more elaborate each year with parades and masked balls. A number of US cities hold a parade each year, with the New Orleans carnival the most well-known.

## ST PETERSBURG IS FOUNDED

For two centuries (1712–1918), St Petersburg was the capital of the Russian Empire. Founded in 1703 by Tsar Peter the Great (*below*) the city's location on the Baltic Sea and its European style led to it becoming known as Russia's 'window on Europe'. The city was originally named in honour of St Peter, and became the Empire's capital in 1712, taking over from Moscow. St Petersburg has had two other names in its history: during World War I, there were concerns that the name was too Germanic-sounding, so it was changed to Petrograd; and, from 1924 until 1991, the city was known as Leningrad following the death of Vladimir Lenin, first communist ruler of Russia.



## A GREAT STORM BATTERS ENGLAND



On 7 December 1703, England was struck by a storm so vicious that it became the first weather event to become a major news story. The Great Storm left destruction and death across much of southern and central England, with newspapers printing biographies of those who had been killed, and detailing the damage caused. Ships were sent severely off course and thousands of seamen died after being wrecked on Goodwin Sands, while Queen Anne was forced to shelter in a cellar in St James Palace. The Church of England proclaimed that the catastrophic weather was caused by God's vengeance against the sins of the country.

## ALSO IN 1703...

### 14 JANUARY – 2 FEBRUARY

Over the course of 19 days, three earthquakes terrorise the Apennine mountain region of Italy – killing an estimated 10,000 people.

### JUNE

The world's first complete population census of a nation is finished in Iceland – with a recorded population of 50,366.

### 31 JULY

Writer Daniel Defoe is placed in the pillory for a satirical pamphlet, in which he suggests that Dissenters (Protestants separated from the Church of England) should be executed.

### 22 AUGUST

A revolt beginning in Constantinople deposes the Ottoman Sultan Mustafa II. Known as the Edirne Event, it leads to a gradual decline in the power of the Sultanate.

### 27 DECEMBER

The War of the Spanish Succession makes French wine difficult to get hold of in England, so Portugal and England sign the Methuen Treaty. This ensures that Portuguese wine is not unduly taxed – and boosts the popularity of port.

## DIED: 19 NOVEMBER THE MAN IN THE IRON MASK

On 19 November 1703, a prisoner died in the Bastille with no-one ever knowing his crime – or identity, as his face had never been seen. Held in prisons across France for 34 years, the man – who was only hooded in black velvet, rather than iron – was supposed by philosopher Voltaire to be the brother of Louis XIV.



## BORN: 17 JUNE JOHN WESLEY

Born a rector's son, John Wesley had an intensive spiritual education growing up. He became a curate in his father's parish, but was frequently barred from the pulpit due to his outspoken opinions. Starting in Bristol, Wesley began preaching in fields and eventually founded the Methodist Church with his brother, Charles.





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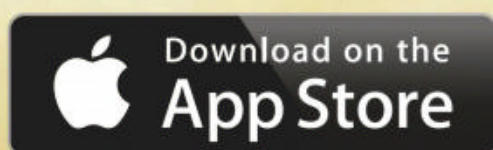
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ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

# The art of compassion

*Air ambulance being unloaded near Bruges. Doris Clare Zinkeisen, 1945*

## DISCOVER THE MOVING WORK OF DORIS ZINKEISEN— A BRITISH RED CROSS ARTIST ON THE FRONTLINE AND ONE OF THE FEW FEMALE ARTISTS OF WWII

Offering her services as a war artist at a time when the artistic portrayal of war was very much a man's territory, Doris Clare Zinkeisen courageously travelled overseas to paint the horrors of conflict. She recorded the humanitarian work of the British Red Cross in newly liberated Europe in the 1940s.

During the First World War, Doris had volunteered as a British Red Cross VAD nurse caring for convalescing soldiers injured on the front. Doris once again volunteered as a British Red Cross Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD) nurse caring during the Second World War, this time caring for air raid victims whom she went on to paint.

The first official war artists' scheme was set up in 1916 by the British government, and Doris was among the few women who broke the stereotypes and braved the horrors of war to tell the story beyond the home front. She travelled around north-west Europe, sketching images in different places and then transforming them into oil paintings in her studio.

### A CRUCIAL ROLE

Doris was the first artist to enter the infamous Bergen-Belsen Concentration Camp after it was liberated on 15 April 1945. There she would have witnessed the 13,000 unburied bodies and around 60,000 inmates, most acutely sick and

starving. Her paintings not only captured the relief work carried out by the British Red Cross, but the disturbing scenes of captivity and the pain and suffering around her. Although few in number, Doris Zinkeisen and other female artists showed that women could play a crucial role in portraying and interpreting war.

Women are often largely remembered for their nursing work during the World Wars, however the art produced by women during this time illustrates that their contribution to humanitarian work went beyond this. Women not only had the creative talents, but also the strength, to unflinchingly record and present war's traumatic and horrific scenes, and many of their works still have the power to move us.



*Burning of Bergen-Belsen Concentration Camp, Doris Clare Zinkeisen, 1945*


### LEAVE YOUR OWN LEGACY

The work carried out by the British Red Cross is as essential today as it was in Doris' time. It's thanks to the generosity of the charity's supporters that it can always be ready to help those in crisis, whether they're on the other side of the world or on your own street. By leaving a gift in your will, you can leave your own legacy and ensure the British Red Cross can continue to support vulnerable people for many years to come.



For more information about supporting the British Red Cross with a gift in your will and the Free Will scheme, visit [redcross.org.uk/freewill](https://redcross.org.uk/freewill) or call 0300 500 0401





Marco said farewell to Venice aged around 17. He would be in his forties before he laid eyes on the city again

# How Marco Polo changed the world

The Venetian merchant spent more than two decades witnessing things that Europeans had never seen before, but more importantly – says **Jonny Wilkes** – he wrote it all down

GETTY IMAGES





Though his travels are well known, much of Marco's life is clouded by doubt

**“He described places, customs and peoples so exotic they seemed to be beyond belief”**

“Great Princes, Emperors, and Kings, Dukes and Marquises, Counts, Knights, and Burgesses, and People of all degrees who desire to get knowledge of the various races of mankind and of the diversities of the sundry regions of the World, take this book and cause it to be read to you.”

From the opening line of the prologue, Marco Polo had lofty ambitions for the readership of his great work. Yes, those words reflected a certain pomp and intentionally inflated grandeur, but he did have cause to aim high. His book charted the journey he made as a merchant from Venice to China and back again – spanning 24 years and tens of thousands of miles – plus his time in the employ of the leader of the Mongols, and described places, cultures, customs and peoples that, to Europeans, were new and so exotic that they seemed beyond belief.

He was not the first European to travel to such far-off lands. He was not even the first in his family. Yet he ensured that his would be the name heard far and wide, and consequently remembered throughout history, by writing his experiences, memories and tales down.

The opportunity of getting it all on paper came about purely by chance. Marco Polo had returned from his travels in his forties, in the last years of the 13th century, to find the city state of Venice at war with Genoa. The Genoese captured him, but he was in luck – sharing his prison cell was noted writer of romances Rustichello da Pisa, who became enthralled by the stories Marco told to pass the time. Together, with the traveller dictating his adventures and the writer adding the embellished style of prose he used for the Arthurian legends, the men wrote *Le Divisement du Monde*, or *The Description of the World*.

More commonly known as *The Travels of Marco Polo*, the book caused a sensation when published and was reproduced in numerous languages across the continent. Undoubtedly, it would have been read by some of the princes, kings, dukes and knights addressed in the prologue. His vivid

descriptions of Asia widened Europeans' horizons and challenged their views of distant, so-called uncivilised peoples. In fact, so fantastical were the revelations that many thought the whole thing to be a work of fiction.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, the book and the man have been a subject of debate and scrutiny ever since, not helped by a wealth of missing information about his life. It is generally held that he was born in 1254 in Venice, although the facts are disputed. The young Marco likely received an education designed to prepare him for life as a merchant: learning to read and write, mathematics and bookkeeping.

## GATEWAY TO FAME

Thirteenth-century Venice was the commercial centre of Europe, a gateway to the Middle East and Asia, and the men holding the keys were the merchants. The Crusades had thrust eastwards, while the colossal Mongol Empire had stormed west, bringing two worlds in contact for the first time – but only the bravest explorers, missionaries and traders dared to traverse between them. Among them was the Polo family.

This meant years – decades, even – away from home. Marco's father Niccolo





Marco left Venice in 1271 and wouldn't come home for 24 years. The city he would return to would be different to the one he left behind, and Marco himself - marked by years of living in foreign lands - would stand apart as being distinctly un-Venetian



# MEET THE UNSUNG POLOS

If not for his father Niccolo and uncle Maffeo, Marco Polo would not have made his epic voyage to China at all, and so would not have written the book that forevermore changed the European view of the world. The two brothers were successful merchants, making their fortune in jewels, silks and spices before Marco had been born.

They began in Constantinople (now Istanbul), but showed astute political awareness by removing their business from the city just a year before the Crusader leaders there were overthrown in 1261. They continued east to the court of Berke Khan – the ruler of the Golden Horde, the Mongol's western territories – and then to China. They may have been the first Europeans honoured as guests at the court of Kublai Khan.

Although the Mongols were regarded as barbaric and uncivilised in Europe, the empire was relatively peaceful at this time and Kublai Khan showed a high degree of tolerance towards other races and religions. He asked the Polo brothers to deliver a message to the Pope and return with 100 Christian priests (or scholars able to explain Christianity to him) and oil from the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem.

That was the reason for their second expedition, during which Niccolo's teenage son Marco accompanied them, although they failed to bring the 100 priests. There are no other clues in *The Travels of Marco Polo* to explain how Niccolo and Maffeo spent the years in China.

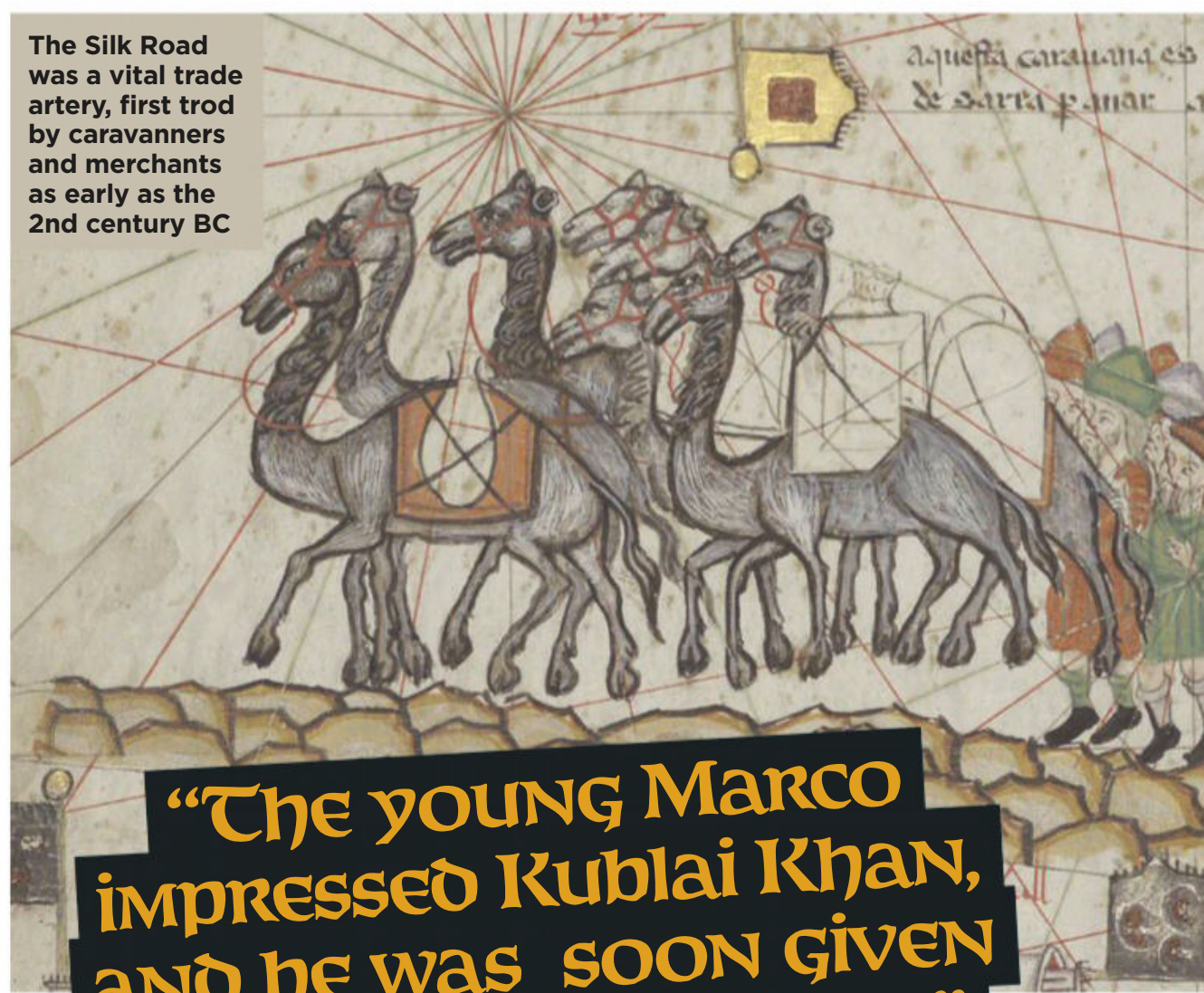


ABOVE: The Holy Sepulchre is believed to be the site of the crucifixion and of Jesus' tomb

RIGHT: The Polos met the future Pope Gregory X in the Holy Land in 1271



The Silk Road was a vital trade artery, first trod by caravanners and merchants as early as the 2nd century BC



**“The young Marco impressed Kublai Khan, and he was soon given work as an emissary”**

and uncle Maffeo had left before he had been born, on a voyage that would last until he was a teenager. The brothers' success as jewel merchants saw them invited to China to meet the Mongol ruler, Kublai Khan, who requested they go back to Europe and return with learned men able to teach him about Christianity. When they finally reached Venice in 1269, Niccolo discovered that his wife had died and that the son he had never met, perhaps never knew about, had been raised by an aunt and uncle.

Marco must have been eager to join his father and uncle on their travels, but that had to wait. Niccolo and Maffeo wished to see the conclusion of the ongoing papal election so they could deliver a letter from Kublai Khan to the new Pope. Two years passed without a result, so, in 1271, they decided to embark on their second journey, taking Marco with them. By

strange coincidence, they still managed to deliver their letter. In Acre they met Teobaldo Visconti, the Archdeacon of Lège, who was on Crusade with the future Edward I of England. A few days later, Visconti was named as the new Pope, becoming Gregory X.

The journey was certainly treacherous,

so the Polos kept their valuable jewels safe by sewing them inside their coats. They had to stop at Jerusalem to fulfil another request from Kublai Khan – a sample of the oil burning in the lamp at the Holy Sepulchre, which meant trekking across parched deserts. Then when their hopes of finding a seaworthy vessel to sail to India were dashed, they had to travel in caravans across the unforgiving and time-consuming land route.

“This desert is reported to be so long that it would take a year to go from end to end,” said Marco of the Gobi Desert. “It consists entirely of mountains and sands and valleys. There is nothing at all to eat.” They slowly made their way to and through Mongol land using the route of the Silk Road, and were forced to stop in Afghanistan when Marco fell ill, possibly from malaria.

## THE KHAN'S COURT

It took them more than three years to reach the court of Kublai Khan at his summer palace of Shangdu (or Xanadu). Its luxuriousness and size made an indelible impression on Marco: “Kublai Khan had a vast palace built of marble and other ornamental stones. Its halls and rooms are covered with gilded images of birds and animals, trees and flowers and many other things, so skilfully and ingeniously worked that it is a delight and wonder to see.”

As for Kublai Khan himself, Marco would describe him as “well proportioned, neither small, nor large





**INSET: Kublai Khan had a lot to live up to as successor to the mighty Genghis Khan**

but of medium height". The grandson of Genghis Khan, he had succeeded in 1260 and conquered the whole of China, after which he formed the Yuan dynasty. Marco, now in his twenties, was entranced by the ruler. "His frame is beautifully fleshed out, and all his limbs are admirably formed. His face is white and red like a rose, the eyes are black and beautiful, the nose shapely and well set."

The young Marco impressed Kublai Khan too, and he was soon in the employ of the state. It was common practice for Mongol rulers to appoint foreigners, preferring to rely on their outsider insight and knowledge rather than on the shaky loyalty of their Chinese subjects. For his skills at picking up languages quickly – supposedly, he mastered four – and as a raconteur, Marco was soon given work as an emissary and possibly a tax collector.

For years, he travelled across Kublai Khan's domain, from all over China to Myanmar and India, gathering information that he would relate back to the court, while also observing peoples and societies that no European had seen before. At all times Marco carried a 'paiza', a tablet used by officials as a form of passport in the Mongol Empire to ensure they would not be harmed and would always be given food and services.

The information Marco brought to Kublai Khan kept him a respected and honoured member of the court. From that place in society, he witnessed the remarkable deeds of Khutulun,



**ABOVE: Marco's observations later provided the basis for maps of China, such as this one from 1495**

**RIGHT: Kublai Khan gives the Polos their passport, a tablet called a 'paiza', guaranteeing their safety whilst in his employ**





# THE WORLD ACCORDING TO MARCO POLO

Marco Polo has been praised for the level of detail in his writing and criticised for getting things wrong – or leaving stuff out entirely

## THE GREAT WALL OF CHINA

► It seems suspicious that the Venetian merchant could go to China and not mention this colossal engineering accomplishment. But perhaps the Great Wall was not worth mentioning. In the 13th century, it was in disrepair and would not become the structure known today until the Ming dynasty.



## THE RHINOCEROS

▼ Many animals and plants were correctly identified by Marco Polo, but he did think the rhinoceros was a unicorn. He called it “a passing ugly beast to look upon... not in the least like that which our stories tell of as being caught in the lap of a virgin”.



## THE POSTAL SYSTEM

▼ Marco Polo showed his knowledge of other things in China, including paper money, eyeglasses and the postal system, called Yam, used by Mongol messengers. Relay stations on the roads allowed messengers to stop for a rest while another takes over on a fresh horse.



## CHINESE CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS

Marco Polo left out chopsticks, tea drinking and foot binding, as well as Chinese writing and woodblock printing – all major parts of life in China. It could be argued that as he was in the Mongol-ruled Yuan dynasty, such things represented the subjugated peoples.

## WOMEN OF TIBET

While in Tibet, Marco Polo enjoyed a social practice that definitely existed. Sexual experience, rather than chaste innocence, was preferable in a potential wife, so women would be offered to worldly travellers. He called it a “wonderful place for a man of 16 to 24 to visit”.



< daughter of Kublai Khan's cousin. A strong warrior who fought alongside her father, she laid down a challenge that any man who could defeat her in a wrestling match would win her hand in marriage. The losers, however, had to award her with their horses. No one ever beat Khutulun and her stables reportedly grew to be 10,000-strong.

## A WORLD FORGOTTEN

Marco's fascination with different cultures and practices – without the moral judgement often seen in early explorers of Christian Europe – was matched only by his awe at the level of advancement of the civilisations. In *The Travels*, he gives extraordinary detail on the architecture, infrastructure such as sanitation and heating, and the sheer size of the places he saw. He visited cities with populations ten times that of Venice.

Yet after around 16 years, the three Polos were looking to return home, perhaps fearing what would happen to them under a less welcoming successor to the elderly Kublai Khan. While the emperor initially refused their request to leave his service, he changed his mind in 1292 – as long as they escorted the Mongol princess Kokechin to Persia to be married. The Polos left China for good with a fleet of 14 ships. Storms and disease decimated the crews – enough for Marco to claim that only 18 of 600 on board survived – and by the time they reached Khorasan (modern-day Iran), Kokechin's betrothed had died, so she married his son instead.

The Polos' fortune did not improve. Without Kublai Khan's protection, officials relieved them of much of their wealth, though they managed to get away with the jewels in their coats. They finally made it home in c1295, barely able to speak their native language and looking markedly un-

Venetian – so much, wrote Marco in *The Travels*, that their own relatives did not recognise them.

That book remained nothing more than a hope until Marco's chance encounter with the writer Rustichello several years later. With Venice at war, the seasoned traveller had armed and commanded a galley, before being captured by the Genoese in 1298 and spending a year behind bars. During his captivity, he worked with Rustichello on what became a bestselling success – quite a feat before printing – transcribed by hand into most

European languages. And though the demand meant the original text has been lost amidst the amendments and abridgments of each new transcription, the name Marco Polo has become internationally recognised.

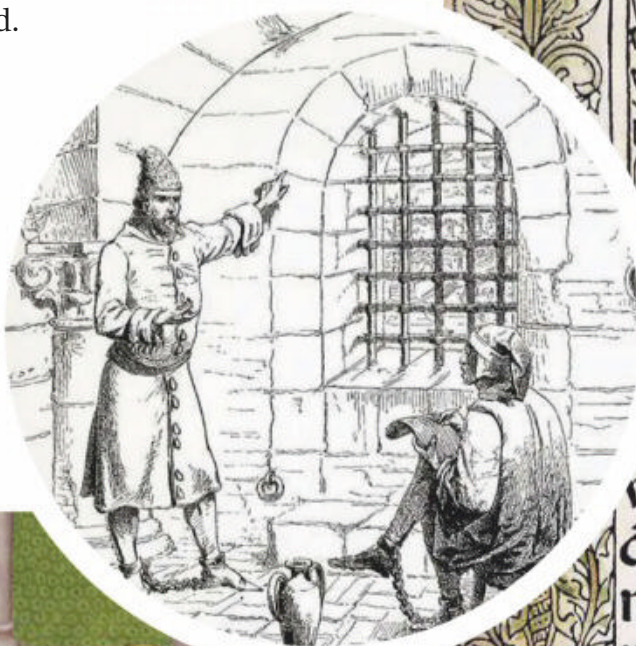
Many readers simply could not believe *The Travels* to be true, assuming it to be more fable than fact. Both man and book earned the nickname *Il Milione* (*The Million*) in mocking reference to the use of huge, seemingly far-fetched numbers in the text. What Europeans found most shocking were not the more fantastical elements based in miracles or legends, but the descriptions of so-called barbarian societies more advanced than their own. Marco described, in detail, high-speed messaging services, paper money, and the building of colossal cities and canals. To believe him was to challenge the superiority of European civilisation.

There are reasons to question the veracity of Marco's account. He does

**“To believe Marco was to challenge the superiority of European civilisation”**

RIGHT: Some editions of *The Travels* were works of art

BELOW: Marco dictated his tales to romance writer Rustichello da Pisa in prison – could he have added some of the text's embellishments?



LEFT: Khutulun proved to be a formidable wrestler







not appear in any Chinese document of the time, although he may have been given another name; several claims have been debunked, including that he was a key figure at a battle and that he stood as governor of the city of Yangzhou. Marco also admitted that he did not see everything in *The Travels* himself, and had recounted tales from “dependable and trustworthy men”.

That said, it has long been generally accepted that Marco undoubtedly travelled to China and lived at the court of Kublai Khan. No previous traveller covered as much ground as him, let alone make a comprehensive record of what they witnessed. For the rest of his life – spent quietly after marrying and having three daughters – he never

wavered that his magnum opus was based on truth.

As he lay on his deathbed in January 1324, at the approximate age of 70, those gathered implored him to confess that his work was fiction. His reply: “I did not write half of what I saw, for I knew I would not be believed.” True or not, *The Travels* went from literary sensation to inspirational tome for future travellers, explorers and adventurers.

With the decline of the Mongol Empire having served to cut off east from west again, his journey to China became even more special. It represented something lost as well as something gained. The book – part cosmography, part anthropological study, part travel guide and part odyssey – influenced the Fra Mauro map, a major

**The Fra Mauro map was the most complete and accurate of its time. In a break from tradition, Jerusalem is not depicted as the centre of the world**

development in medieval cartography. Christopher Columbus owned a copy; he scribbled in the margins and used it as a guide for his voyage to Asia, which turned out to be the New World.

Marco’s account is unquestionably filled with embellishments, exaggerations and the romantic asides of its co-author, but the most important thing was that Marco Polo wrote it down, ensuring his name would be remembered. 📍

## GET HOOKED

### LISTEN



4

Melvyn Bragg discusses the travels of Marco Polo in an episode of *In Our Time*

on BBC Radio 4

[www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b01hxpvh](http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b01hxpvh)



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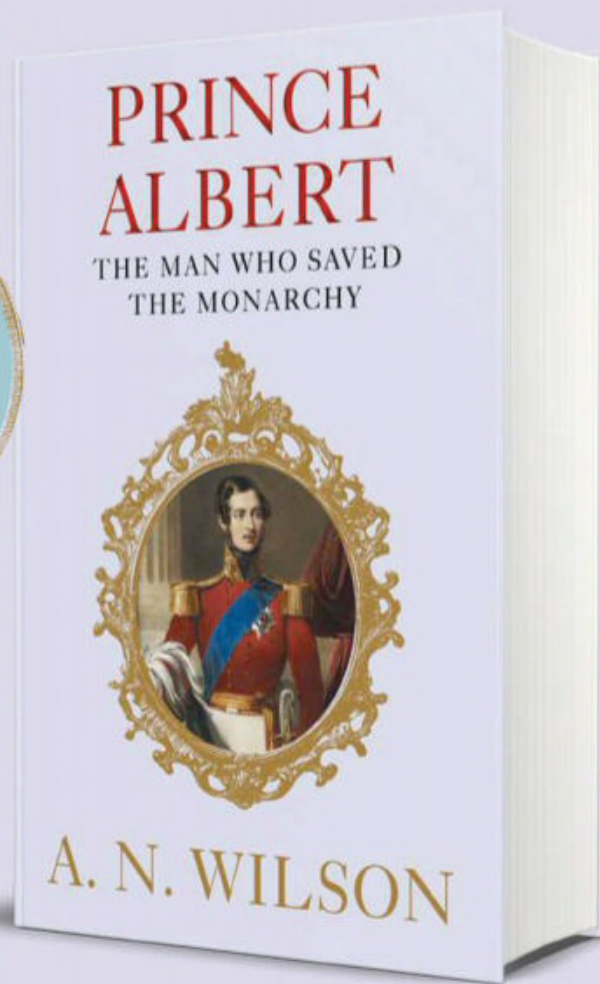
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# HOW TO SURVIVE AN *Edwardian* *dinner party*

With *Downton Abbey* soon to be hitting cinemas, how would you fare if invited to an Edwardian dinner gathering? **Emma Slattery Williams** offers some indispensable tips to help you impress anyone – even Lord Grantham himself



**T**he Edwardian period – officially spanning the reign of Edward VII between 1901 and 1910, but often encompassing the years running up to World War I – was a time of airs and graces. Many of the rules and manners seem alien compared to those of the 21st century, with several of them hangovers from the prim and proper Victorian era. Few areas were the rules more obviously in force than at an Edwardian dinner party. Such occasions were more than just an excuse for a get-together. They were showcases of wealth for the upper classes, allowing them to impress their guests with their best silverware and multiple courses of fine food and wine. If you were suddenly transported back in time, how would you navigate this strange world of footmen, dinner gongs and decorum? Fear not! Our expert guide will guarantee you a return invitation.

## 1. Dress to impress

How should you dress to ensure you look your best for the occasion? Formal wear is a must and hats should be worn by gentlemen on their arrival. For all meals before 6pm, hats and gloves are a necessity for women and should be kept on for lunch. During dinner, gloves should sit on your lap beneath your napkin. Men generally wear tuxedos as a minimum – tailcoats for especially formal occasions – while the women will be attired in full length dresses with their hair in an elaborate up-do. Tiaras are only worn by married women, to set apart the single ladies in the room. The lady of the house will ensure her maid records what she wears to avoid any embarrassing repetition of outfits should she host you again.

**Dinner is the most formal of all meals, both in etiquette and in your attire. Immaculate dress is expected to match what will surely be an extravagant repast**



## 2. Be prepared

Punctuality is extremely important, if you want to give a good first impression. Guests will congregate in the drawing room. If there is a large group of diners, men will be given a card containing the name of the woman they will be seated next to.

After the butler has announced dinner, the master of the household will lead the procession into the dining room, with the lady of highest rank on his arm. They will then be followed by the rest of the family and guests in pairs. Gentlemen offer their arms to the ladies and husbands do not escort their wives. The last in should be the hostess and the most 'socially important' male guest.

Dinner is served reasonably late, at around 8pm. Make sure you're prepared for what lies ahead of you – dinner can be a long affair and leaving the table, to answer a call of nature for example, is not acceptable.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Gongs were used to inform the family that they needed to dress for dinner as well as giving the butler the cue to announce the meal itself. They were also used at other times of the day, including to announce breakfast – though the unofficial reason was sometimes to alert men to go back to their own bedrooms, keeping any liaisons a secret.



# 3. Arrive hungry

What can you expect to eat at this fine soirée and how should you go about eating it to avoid a potential dinner disaster? As with so many things about Edwardian life, there are rules. Dinner is the most formal meal of the day.

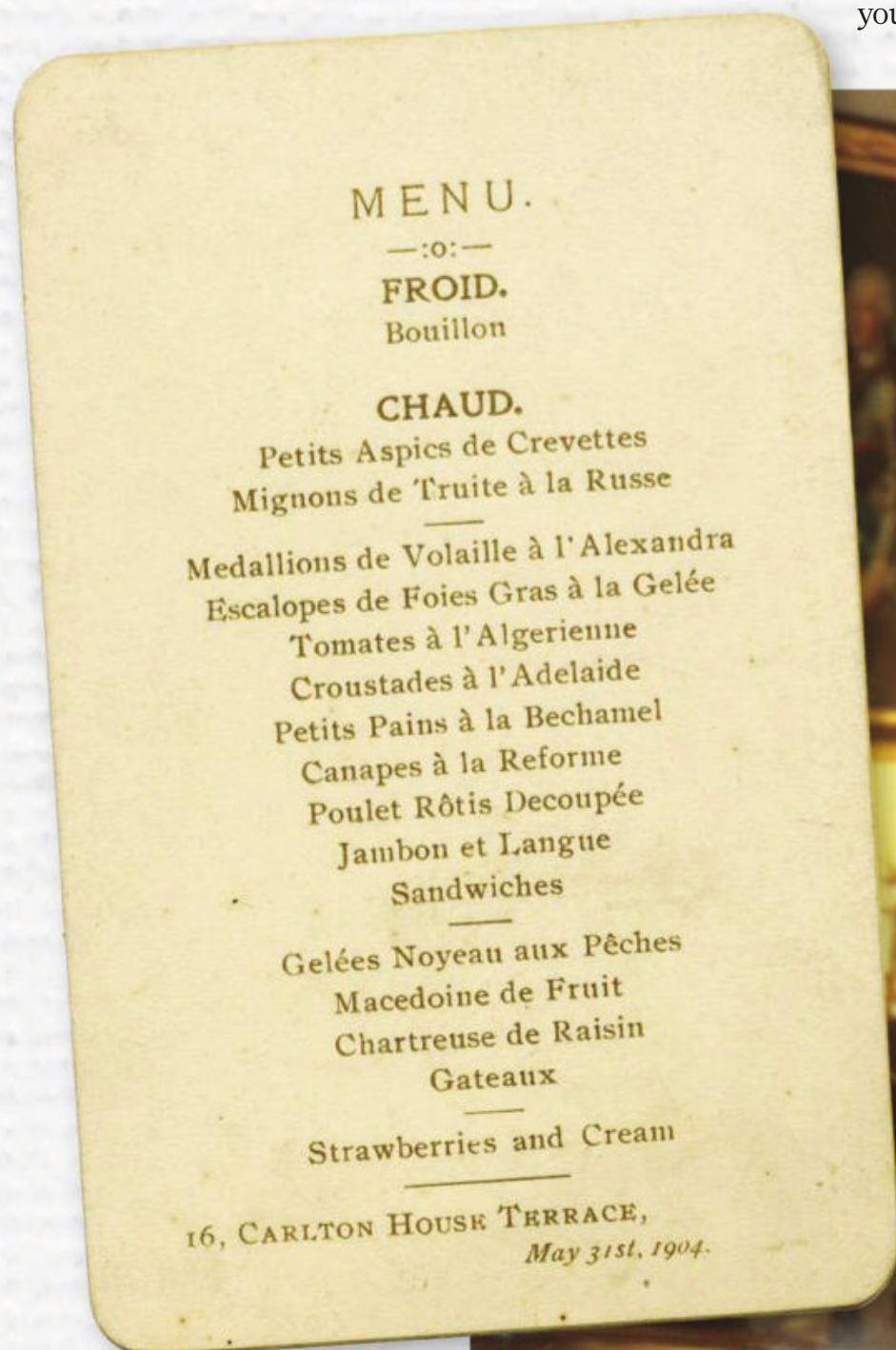
You may assume, with all the number of servants present, that food will be dished up for you, but this is often not the case. Footmen – wearing white gloves to avoid smearing the silverware – will hold food platters to your left so that you can help yourself. This allows you to govern how much you eat. The lady on the host's right will be attended to first and then the footmen will serve clockwise around the table. The idea

of women being served first is a continental idea that has not been adopted yet. Rulers are used when the table is being set to ensure that the cutlery is aligned properly and that knives, forks and spoons are the correct distance away from each other

Dining styles are changing, so your food may be served 'à la Russe' (in the Russian style), where dishes are portioned on a sideboard and handed to each guest. This replaces the older French tradition, in which courses are placed on the dining table and guests help themselves. In either case, keep in mind that dinner will be a multi-course affair, so eat a little of each if you want to reach the final course comfortably, especially if you're wearing a corset.

Six courses is the most common number but on special occasions you may encounter as many as twelve. These generally consist of soup, a fish course, an entrée such as vol-au-vents or sweetbreads, a sorbet, a roast course such as pheasant and then dessert which can include blancmange or fresh fruit from the estate's hothouses.

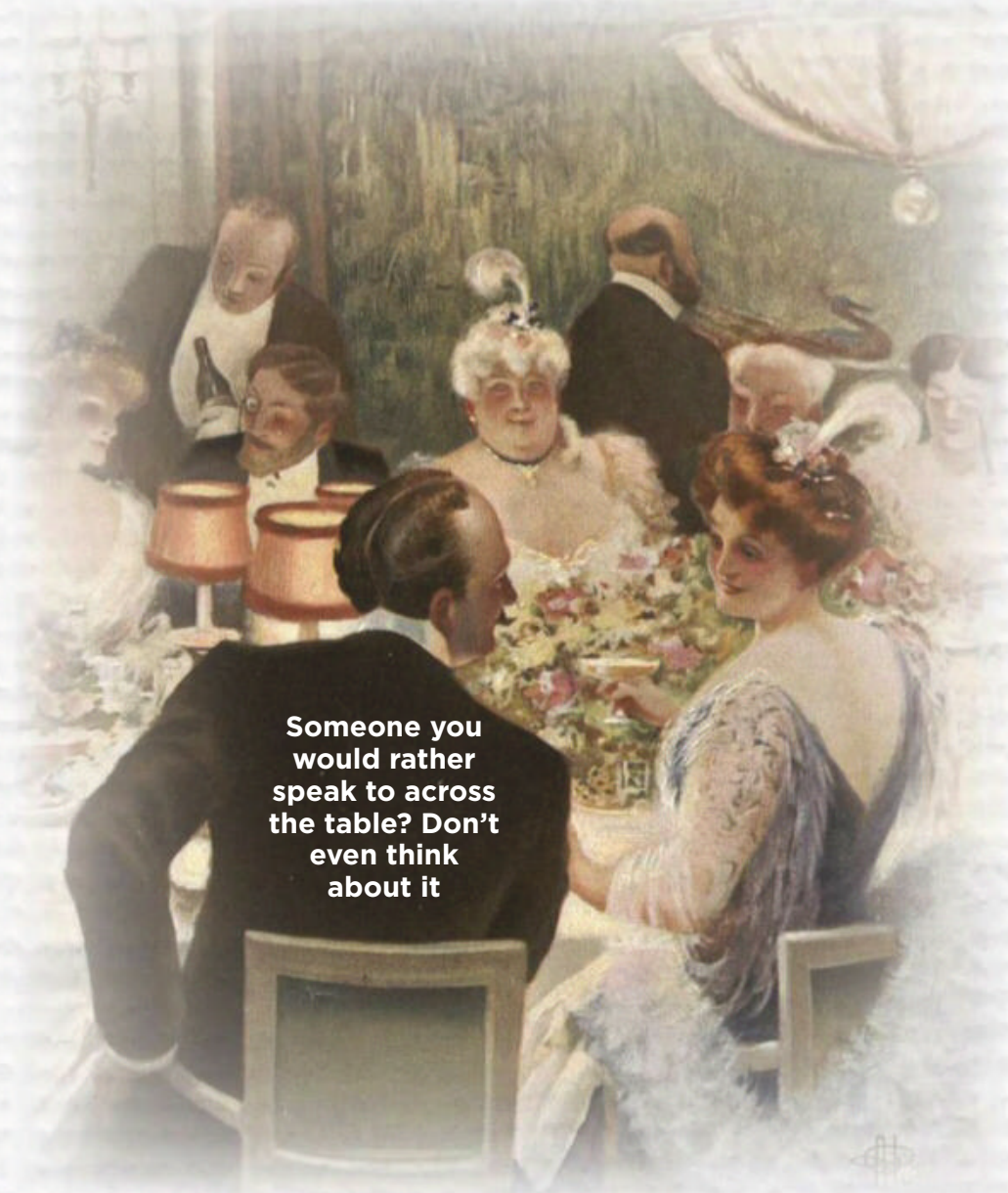
Jellied tongue, ox heart and a pig's head are also popular delicacies to look out for. The menu will have been discussed between the lady of the house and cook in advance. As well as tasting good, all of the food served must look impressive. Garnishes are a popular feature so almost all dishes will be dressed with a sprig of greenery or a glaze.



More fashionable Edwardian hosts know that dishes are best served à la Russe, away from the table. Make sure you follow suit in your own soirées to ensure your guests realise your social acumen







Someone you would rather speak to across the table? Don't even think about it

## 4. Keep the conversation light

To avoid making an embarrassing faux pas, ensure you are aware of what is deemed an inappropriate topic of conversation. Gossip of an indelicate or sexual nature is strictly off limits – there will be ladies present after all.

Controversial subjects like politics, religion or boasting about finances are also a no-no.

As well as what you can talk about, *who* you talk to is also governed by the rules of etiquette. You can't just launch into conversation with someone on the opposite side of the table when you feel like it. When the meal begins, you may converse with one of

your neighbours – which side will usually be dictated by the lady of the house, so follow her lead. During the course of the meal, she will turn to her other neighbour and perhaps give a discreet cough or other signal to inform diners that they may now turn and speak to the person on their other side. This ensures that no one gets ignored and is known as the turning of the table.

You may be expecting to sit with the person you arrived with but no, there will be carefully thought out seating plan to follow. On your arrival you will have been given a card informing you who you are sat next to. Guests sit male-female-male around the table, and married couples are normally separated. Engaged couples are often sat together so they can converse and get to know each other while chaperoned.

## 5. Mind your manners

The importance of manners cannot be underestimated and will help ensure you're on the guest list the next time around. Remember to be polite and be on your best behaviour. If you do not know the person you will be sitting next to, it is up to the gentlemen to introduce themselves and offer the lady his arm on the way into the dining room.

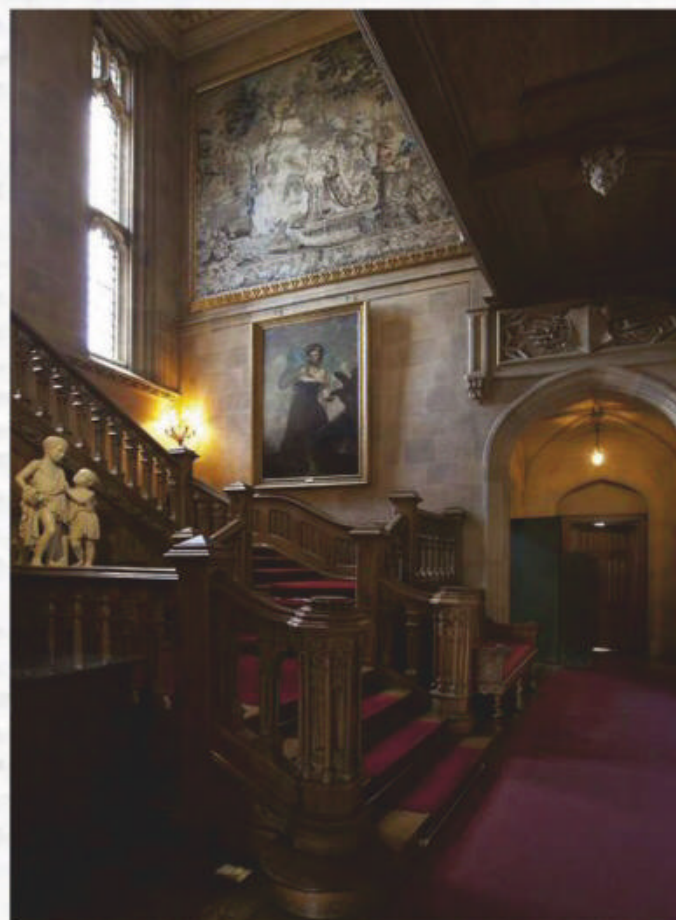
Sit correctly in your chair – one's back must never touch it, so there can be no slouching. Bring your food towards you – never the other way around – and try not to end up wearing your soup. When standing, never put your hands in your pockets – this is considered uncouth. Physical contact is also not the done thing: a hug as a greeting is not appropriate.

## 6. Don't show your lack of breeding

One of the greatest social faux pas you can make when invited to a formal dinner party is to give away your class status – if this is lower than that of your hosts. If the house you have been invited to is exceptionally grand, try to keep your amazement to yourself.

Standing with your mouth wide open in awe at the finery and elegant decor will embarrass both you and them. This also means you should keep compliments to a minimum – otherwise you could give away the fact that this is not a situation, or surroundings,

you are accustomed to. Do not give the impression that you're overwhelmed with the grandeur of the house, the expensive silverware or the vast number of servants. With regards to the food, your hosts will not have toiled in the kitchen themselves – they have staff for that. Compliments on the standard of food, therefore, are meaningless.



Try not to gawp at the rich tapestries and exquisite paintings on display




Pay close attention to your cutlery, always – there is a correct implement for every dish, be it fish, game or a sorbet



Gentlemen should avoid talking business until the ladies have left the table

## 7. Follow your crowd

After dinner has finished, the women will retire to the parlour or drawing room, while the men remain at the dining table to talk freely about politics and generally put the world to rights – topics seen as far too challenging for women to worry themselves about. For the men, liquor and smoking is often involved – the host will receive a decanter of wine which he'll pour himself. The women, meanwhile, will sip coffee while indulging in some gossip about the latest royal scandal or potential romances within their social circle. 

### GET HOOKED

#### WATCH

*Downton Abbey: The Movie* will be released on 13 September in the UK and 20 September in the US

## WHAT ABOUT THE SERVANTS?

**S**ervants will eat downstairs in the servant's hall, but this happens much earlier at around 6pm, to ensure they are ready to serve upstairs. The kitchen maid will normally oversee the staff meal, so the cook can undertake preparations for the grander fare served to the family and guests. The menu for staff may have been quite basic, but on the whole if you worked in a grand house or estate you probably ate considerably well compared to those not in service. Freshly baked bread, meat stews, rice pudding and home-grown vegetables were common meals at the servant's table. While upstairs, wine was the usual tipple to accompany a meal, beer was the more appropriate choice downstairs. Small beer – roughly with 2.5 per cent or less alcohol content – was often provided throughout the day and some country houses would even brew their own. Occasionally – and only if they were lucky – servants may have been permitted to sample leftovers from the upstairs meals.

**Don't pity the servants – they may get a chance to taste your leftovers**



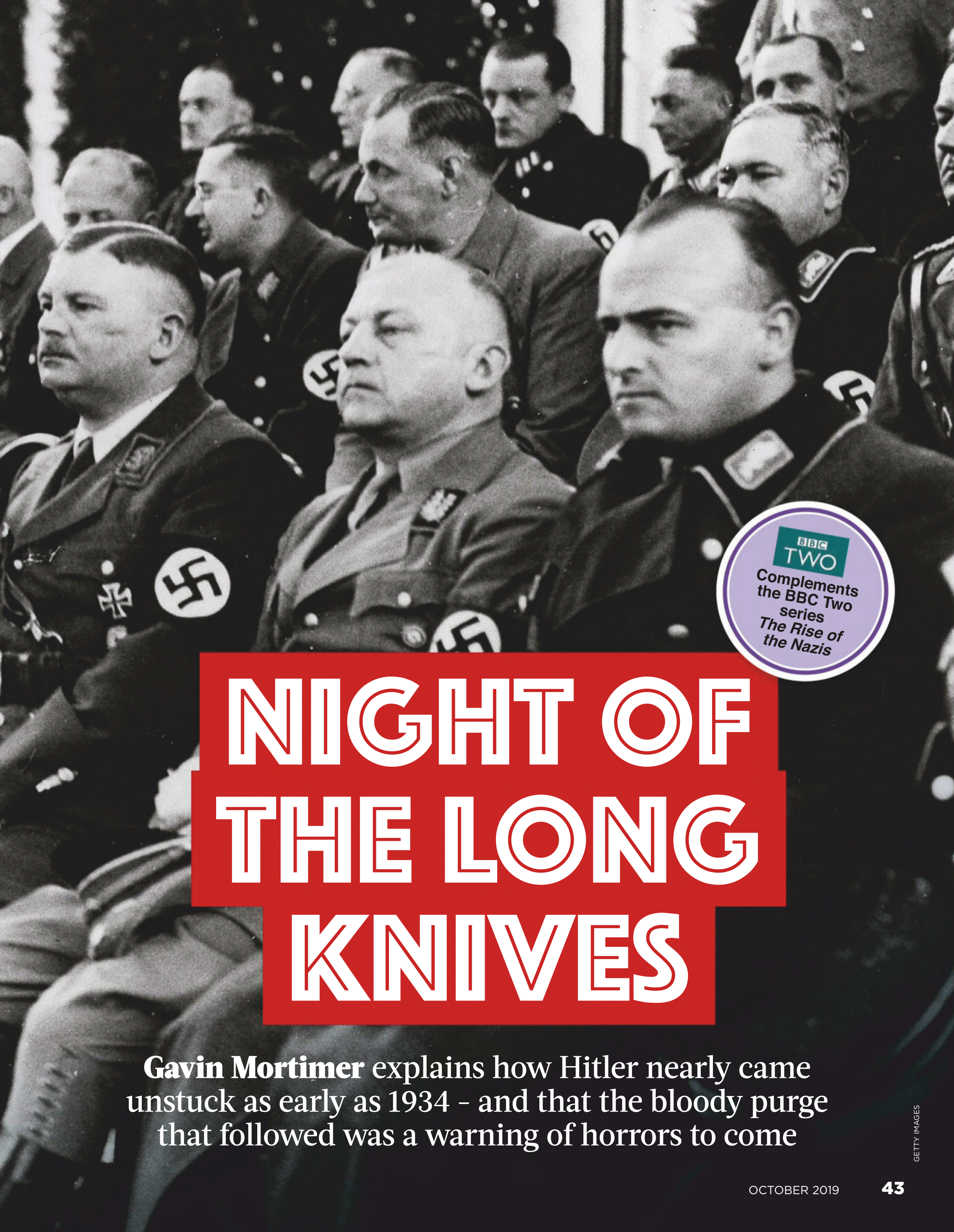


## NIGHT OF THE LONG KNIVES

Once allies, Adolf Hitler and Ernst Röhm (sitting to his left) had a colossal falling out over ideology







# NIGHT OF THE LONG KNIVES

**Gavin Mortimer** explains how Hitler nearly came unstuck as early as 1934 – and that the bloody purge that followed was a warning of horrors to come





**A**dolf Hitler was in a furious temper when his flight touched down in Munich at 4.30am on 30 June 1934. He was not only seething, he was also alarmed, desperate for the latest news about the trouble in the city. Before he'd flown out of Essen, almost three hours earlier, Hitler had been informed that the Brownshirts were out on the streets causing mayhem.

Hitler was met off the plane by a Nazi Party leader, who told him that 3,000 Sturmabteilung (SA) stormtroopers, the party's brown-shirted paramilitary wing, had rampaged through Munich, smashing windows and shouting slogans, many of which accused Hitler of 'treachery'.

The Nazi leader shook with rage on what he called the "blackest day of my life". If there was any treachery afoot then it came from Ernst Röhm, the SA's chief of staff. Hitler tore up the day's

itinerary. There would be no conference with Röhm and the other leaders of the SA as scheduled. The time for talking had passed.

He ordered his driver to race to the Bavarian Ministry of the Interior, and once there he summoned two senior SA figures. When they arrived, Hitler physically stripped them of their rank badges, screaming as he did so: "You are under arrest and will be shot!"

Hitler next assembled a party of armed detectives and SS bodyguards and, in a convoy of saloon cars, set off to the Hotel Hanselbauer in Bad Wiessee, a spa town 32 miles south of Munich. Only the hotel staff were up and about when Hitler marched through the front door and demanded the number of Röhm's room. He bounded up the stairs to the first floor with two detectives at his heels and burst in. "You're under arrest!" he roared. A hungover Röhm seemed unperturbed by the angry intrusion.

**Röhm regarded himself and his SA as the ones to launch a 'second revolution' in Germany**

"Hail, my leader," he muttered, looking up from his pillow.

By the time Röhm emerged from his room – wearing a blue suit and smoking a cigar – the rest of the SA officers at the hotel had been locked in a linen cupboard. Hitler had already issued instructions that they were to be shot. But what to do about Röhm? That was the question that troubled Hitler as he returned to Munich.

## BONDED BY BATTLE

For more than a decade, Hitler and Röhm had been ideologically inseparable, veterans of World War I who had been among the first embittered survivors of that conflict to call for a new Germany to rise from the wreckage of the nation. Both had been convicted of high treason for their part in the Beer Hall Putsch of 1923, and it was Hitler who had resurrected Röhm's career by appointing him SA chief of staff. But power had



Röhm (second from right) and Hitler were among the defendants of the Beer Hall Putsch, the Nazis' failed coup d'état in Munich in 1923



**“TROUBLE HAD BEEN BREWING FOR ALMOST A YEAR”**

gone to his old comrade's head. He was out of control, a political liability whose undisciplined organisation now threatened Hitler's ambition to become Germany's supreme leader.

Trouble had been brewing with Röhm and his Brownshirts for almost a year. On 6 July 1933, barely five months after his appointment as Chancellor of Germany, Hitler had assembled the leading figures within the Nazi movement to outline his vision for the nation, which was effectively

now a one-party state. It was a positive analysis, although it came with a caveat, namely Hitler's apprehension at the prospect of intervention from the Western powers. With Germany being militarily very weak, Hitler had wanted to avoid any confrontation. Yet the SA's well-publicised antics were conveying the impression of a country that was violent and volatile.

The brutality had peaked at the end of June when the Brownshirts arrested >



A livid Hitler arrives in Munich on 30 June 1934

## HITLER'S RISE TO POWER

**27 MARCH 1930**

The coalition government of Hermann Müller collapses, leading to new elections.

**14 SEPTEMBER 1930**

The Nazis poll 18.3 per cent of the vote in the general election, making them the second-largest party.

**5 JANUARY 1931**

Ernst Röhm becomes the SA's new chief of staff, answering to Nazi Party leader Hitler.

**13 MARCH 1932**

Hitler challenges Paul von Hindenburg for the presidency and takes 30 per cent of the popular vote in the first round, rising to 37 per cent in the second round.

**13 APRIL 1932**

Increasing Nazi violence prompts Chancellor Heinrich Brüning to ban the SA.





By 1933 the Brownshirts, the original paramilitary force of the Nazi Party, had become a law unto themselves



President Hindenburg - the only person with the power to sack Hitler - thanked him for the way he dealt with the SA



The propaganda posters worked - in June 1933 the SA could call upon some three million stormtroopers

### 1 JUNE 1932

Franz von Papen succeeds Brüning as Chancellor. Fifteen days later, he lifts the ban on the SA.

### JULY 1932

Escalating violence between the SA and communists results in 86 deaths this month.

### 31 JULY 1932

The Nazis take 37.4 per cent of the vote in the elections to become the largest party, with 230 seats in the Reichstag.

### 30 JANUARY 1933

Hitler is appointed Chancellor of Germany after the resignation of von Papen the previous November.

### 5 MARCH 1933

With the Communist Party effectively banned for allegedly setting fire to the Reichstag, the Nazis take 44 per cent of the election vote.



500 people in Berlin, after three of their number had been shot dead by a vengeful Social Democrat. At least 23 of the detained were tortured to death. The SA were running wild, and Hitler feared the prospect of foreign intervention before his rearmament programme had even got off the ground.

Röhm, however, led an organisation of around three million, many of whom were diehard fascists and seasoned fighters; worse, they were becoming disillusioned with Hitler's Germany. It didn't seem much different from the previous regime and Röhm was talking openly of a second revolution.

"Revolution is not a permanent condition," Hitler had retorted to the Nazi hierarchy on 6 July. "The stream of revolution has been undammed, but it must be channelled into the secure bed of evolution ... For a second revolution can only direct itself against the first one."

The declaration widened the breach between Hitler and Röhm. And while Hitler avoided criticising the SA by name, he let it be known that only "idiots" thought the revolution had not achieved its aims.

For his part, Röhm was having doubts about Hitler's commitment to the 'national uprising'. Had the accession to power weakened the Führer's revolutionary spirit? Gradually, Röhm began to promote himself as the true leader of Nazi Germany, forcing Hitler from the pages of *Der SA-Mann*, the newspaper of the Brownshirts.

Matters came to a head in February 1934. On the first day of the month Röhm issued a memo in which he demanded the Reichswehr (the German army, later to be merged into the yet-to-be conceived Wehrmacht) was absorbed into the SA. Never, said the defence minister, General Werner von Blomberg, who protested to Hitler. At a conference on 28 February, Hitler rejected Röhm's demand and endorsed Blomberg's proposal that the SA be deployed as a border protection force and a pre-military training unit. It was a humiliating snub for Röhm, who



A loyal crowd gathered outside the Chancellery the morning after the purge, seeking a reassuring glimpse of Hitler

**"RÖHM BEGAN TO PROMOTE HIMSELF AS THE TRUE LEADER OF NAZI GERMANY"**

revealed his true feelings when the pair had left the Defence Ministry. "What the ridiculous corporal declared doesn't apply to us," he said, a reference to Hitler's rank in World War I. "Hitler has no loyalty and has at least to be sent on leave. If not with, then we'll manage the thing without Hitler."

The words were relayed to Hitler by Viktor Lutze, an informer within the SA senior command. "We'll have to let the thing ripen," murmured the Führer.

But Röhm wasn't the only thorn in Hitler's side in 1934. The Vice Chancellor, Franz von Papen, had ambitions of his own – with his eye on the presidency once the increasingly frail Paul von Hindenburg expired – and among his devoted supporters were many high-ranking conservative army officers.

Speaking at the University of Marburg on 17 June, von Papen warned that Germany could not "live in a continuous state of unrest, to which no one sees an end". An angry Hitler quickly fired a warning of his own to von Papen by way of riposte. "It is the fist of the nation that is clenched and will smash down anyone who dares to undertake even the slightest attempt at sabotage," he said.

From his sick bed in East Prussia, the 86-year-old Hindenburg followed events with deepening dread. The father of the nation was dying, but he still possessed enough spirit to tell Hitler that he would declare martial law if something wasn't done to lance the boil infecting the nation.

## CLEANSING THE WOUND

The remedy planned by Hitler was simple. He would convene a conference of the SA leadership at Bad Wiessee on 30 June and have them arrested. As he departed to Essen to attend a wedding, word was sent to the head of his SS houseguards to prepare for "a secret and very important commission of the Führer". Meanwhile Reinhard Heydrich, >

### 23 MARCH 1933

The Enabling Act is passed, giving Hitler the power to make laws without consulting the Reichstag.

### 21-26 JUNE 1933

The SA instigates a week of violence in a suburb of Berlin, during which at least 23 political opponents are tortured and killed.

### 14 JULY 1933

The Nazis ban all political parties in Germany other than their own.

### 1 DECEMBER 1933

Ernst Röhm is appointed to the cabinet. He soon demands that the army is placed under the control of the SA.

### 28 FEBRUARY 1934

Hitler refuses Röhm's demand and subordinates the SA to the army.



## NIGHT OF THE LONG KNIVES

Hitler spins the Night of the Long Knives to the Reichstag, cementing his position as the dominant force in German politics

Details of Röhm's alleged crimes were posted publicly to turn opinion against him

**“SA LEADERS BELIEVED THERE WAS NO THREAT FROM HITLER”**

head of the SS security service, compiled an arrest list of persons deemed “politically unreliable”.

But as the SA stormtroopers in Munich took to the streets on the evening of 29 June to air their grievances, their leaders – gathered at the Hotel Hanselbauer in Bad Wiessee – appeared to believe there was no imminent threat from Hitler. They spent the evening carousing, as drunk on power as they were on beer.

### THE RÖHM QUESTION

Having returned to Munich from Bad Wiessee, an enraged Hitler addressed leading Nazis at the party HQ known as the Brown House at midday. With spittle running down his chin, the Führer described how Röhm had received 12 million marks from France to kill him, which Hitler called as “the worst treachery in world history”. There was no evidence for such a claim, and

the written order calling for a coup reportedly found among Röhm's possessions was almost certainly a forgery. Nonetheless, it was used as justification for the arrest and execution of SA commanders.

While the SA were the targets in Munich, in Berlin it was conservatives who were being singled out. On his return from Bad Wiessee, Joseph Goebbels, Hitler's head of propaganda, had telephoned Hermann Göring with a codeword: ‘Hummingbird’. It was the signal for the Minister of the Interior for Prussia to start eliminating the people on the list of the “politically unreliable”.

Among those murdered were Herbert von Bose, who was von Papen's press secretary, and Edgar Jung, a leading intellectual on the conservative right who had written some of Papen's speeches. Senior figures within the army were also killed, including Major-General

Ferdinand von Bredow, and General Kurt von Schleicher, the last Chancellor of Germany during the Weimar Republic, shot dead in his home along with his wife. Von Papen survived only because Hitler feared an adverse reaction at home and abroad if a statesman of his stature was killed.

Röhm's prestige afforded him no protection. On 1 July Hitler, under pressure from Göring and other leading Nazis, decided that he could not allow his former comrade to live. He gave him the chance to take his own life, but Röhm refused to use the pistol handed to him by two SS officers in his prison cell. “Röhm was given the opportunity to draw the consequences of his treacherous behaviour,” said Hitler in a communiqué. “He did not do so and was thereupon shot.”

The following day Hitler announced the end of the “cleansing action”, and on 13 July told the Reichstag that 74 people had been killed. Other estimates put the figure as high as 200. Whatever the number, what came to be known as the Night of the Long Knives secured Hitler as the strongman of Germany.

The German response to the bloodletting was mainly positive. The people were grateful that Hitler had dealt firmly with an organisation regarded as thuggish and immoral. The army high command shared those sentiments, and General Blomberg hailed Hitler's decision to eliminate Germany's “traitors and murderers”, ignoring the fact that several of the dead were fellow high-ranking officers with no links to the SA.

One of the few with the foresight to understand that the events of 30 June had set a dangerous precedent was Erwin Planck, a former army officer and civil servant. “If you look on without lifting a finger,” he warned General Werner von Fritsch, Chief of the Army High Command, “you will meet the same fate sooner or later.”

### GET HOOKED

#### WATCH

**BBC TWO** *The Rise of the Nazis* is scheduled to begin on BBC Two this September

#### 7 JUNE 1934

Before instructing his stormtroopers to take a holiday until 1 August, Röhm reminds them: “The SA is and remains Germany's destiny.”

#### 3 JULY 1934

In a leader headlined ‘Medieval Methods’, *The Times* condemns the immorality and brutality of the purge.

#### 20 JULY 1934

Hitler removes the SS from SA authority and it becomes the Nazis' elite corps.

#### 2 AUGUST 1934

Hindenburg dies and the post of president is abolished, as Hitler declares himself both Chancellor and head of state.

#### SEPTEMBER 1934

Membership of the SA has fallen by 100,000 in two months. By 1938, it's down to 1.2 million.



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# LIFE AND DEATH IN

# POOM



## DAISY DUNN

is a historian, classicist and author who has published three books in 2019: *Of Gods and Men*, *Homer: a Ladybird Expert Book*, and *In the Shadow of Vesuvius: a Life of Pliny*.

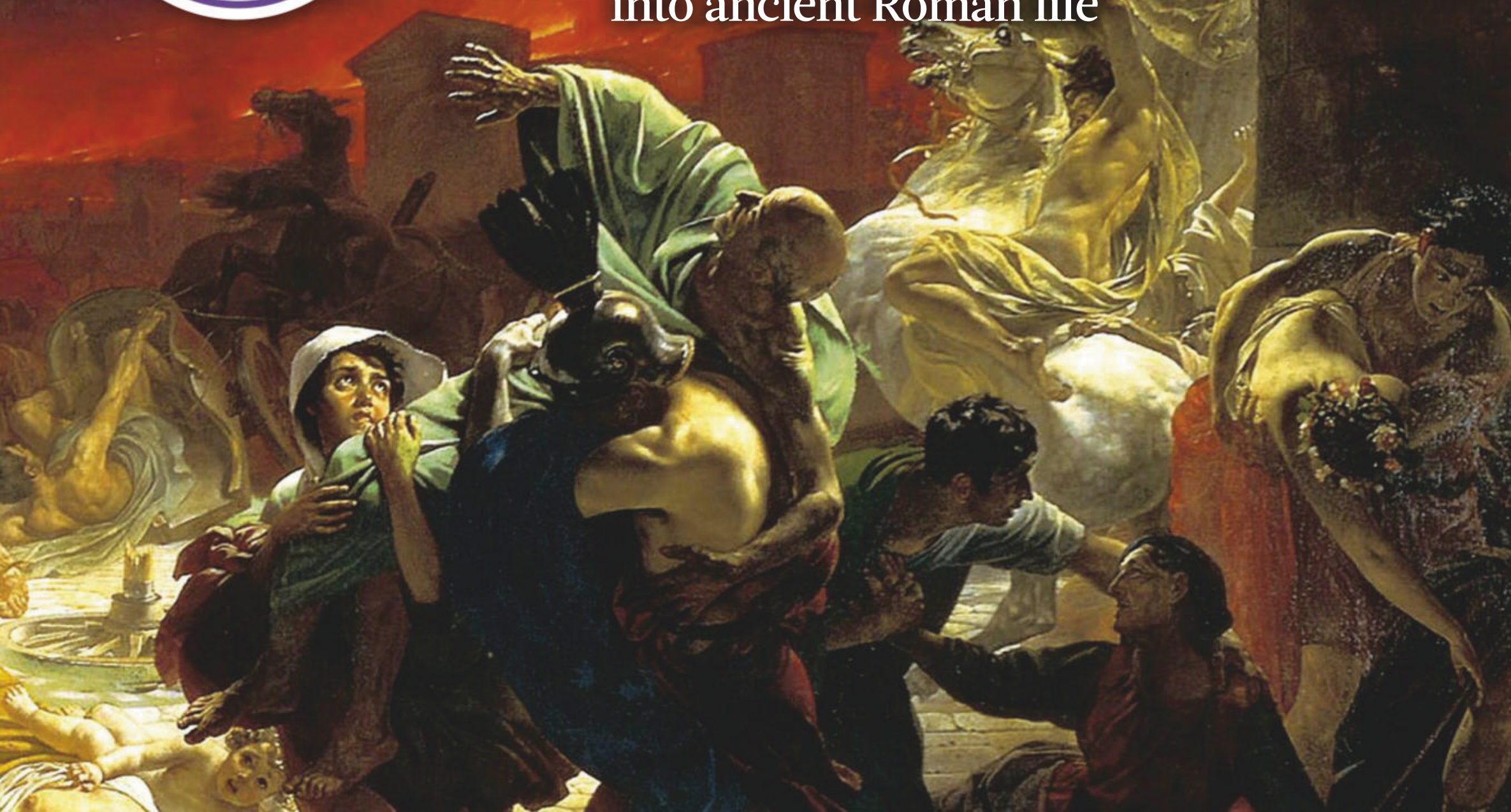
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# POMPEII



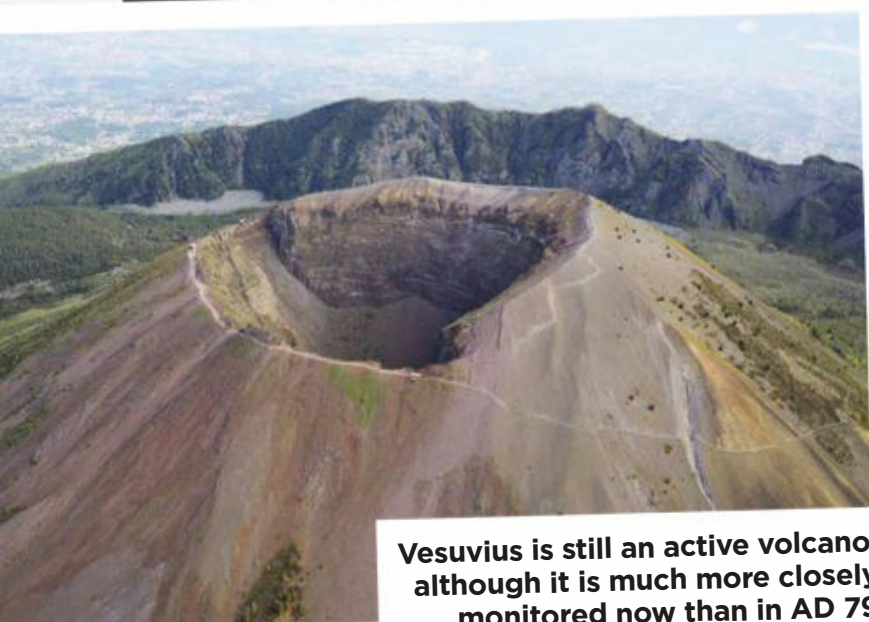
The eruption of Mount Vesuvius wiped out Pompeii in a suffocating cloud of ash, but, as **Daisy Dunn** explores, the buildings and remains buried beneath the debris provide a remarkable window into ancient Roman life





MAIN: Pliny the Younger (centre) sits with his mother – they're being urged to flee as the volcanic cloud rises from Vesuvius

RIGHT: A bas relief, found in Pompeii, memorialising the earthquake that occurred around 17 years before the eruption



Vesuvius is still an active volcano, although it is much more closely monitored now than in AD 79

side of the bay from the city of Pompeii – in the shadow of the mountain – Misenum was home to one of Rome's fleets. From there, Pliny the Younger and his uncle, Pliny the Elder, the

fleet's commander, were more

intrigued than concerned by the peculiar cloud. The older man, in fact, decided he wanted a closer look.

Considered an authority in natural science after writing a multi-volumed tome, *Naturalis Historia*, Pliny the Elder left the villa intent on sailing across the bay to obtain a good view. He asked his nephew whether he would like to accompany him, but the teenager declined, preferring to stay behind with his mother and continue with his studies. As Pliny the Elder prepared to set out alone, he received a message from a friend urging him for help. She lived near Vesuvius and was trapped. The

**“The vineyard-covered mountain lay dormant for several centuries before that afternoon”**

only means of escape, she said, was by boat, so Pliny the Elder chose to launch his large galleys, *quadriremes*, to begin evacuating people.

The cloud was not a phenomenon merely to gaze at, he now realised, but a sign of danger ahead. He had not known that Vesuvius was a volcano. There was indeed little reason for anyone at the time to suspect that the vineyard-covered mountain could be

**E**arly one afternoon in the year AD 79, an enormous cloud began to rise from Mount Vesuvius in the Bay of Naples. The cloud was initially white, but steadily turning grey, and shaped like an umbrella pine tree, causing one onlooker, the 17-year-old Pliny the Younger, to observe: “It was raised high on a kind of very tall trunk and spread out into branches.”

The teenager was staying with his mother and uncle in the port town of Misenum, around 19 miles from Vesuvius. Situated on the opposite





deadly, seeing that it had been dormant for several centuries before, finally, it erupted that afternoon.

Although this would come as a total shock to those who lived in Pompeii, Herculaneum and the other towns of Campania, the volcano had been stirring for years. A devastating earthquake had struck the region in either AD 62 or 63 and caused severe damage, demolishing temples, baths and other buildings. No one was to know this was connected to magma rising inside Vesuvius. Earth tremors followed and continued, so much so that when they intensified in the days leading up to the eruption, Pliny the Younger noted that this was “not particularly frightening because they were so commonplace”. People simply rebuilt what had been damaged and carried on as normal.

Yet by the time Pliny the Elder and his fleet were sailing across the bay, it had become increasingly clear that carrying on as normal was no longer an option. The volcanic cloud had blocked out the Sun as it released a vast quantity of pumice, which, although light and porous by nature, was soon raining down, and at such a rate that it floated on, and clogged, the water. The ships could not reach as far as hoped, so the helmsmen put in where they could – at Stabiae, a town just south of Pompeii.

## ENDLESS NIGHT

Pliny the Elder disembarked to find the people beginning to panic. He saw one of his friends hastily loading his possessions aboard a ship in the hope of escaping, if only the wind settled. In an attempt to calm him down, Pliny the Elder remained a figure of stoicism. He had a bath, joined his friend for dinner and went to sleep in his villa. In the night, however, the household was awoken by powerful earth tremors. Pliny the Elder decided they should leave before the mounting pumice sealed them inside, so with a pillow on his head to protect himself from falling debris, he made his way to the coast.

Unable to sustain its own weight any longer, the enormous cloud had collapsed and released a series of burning avalanche-like waves – called

# INSIDE HERCULANEUM

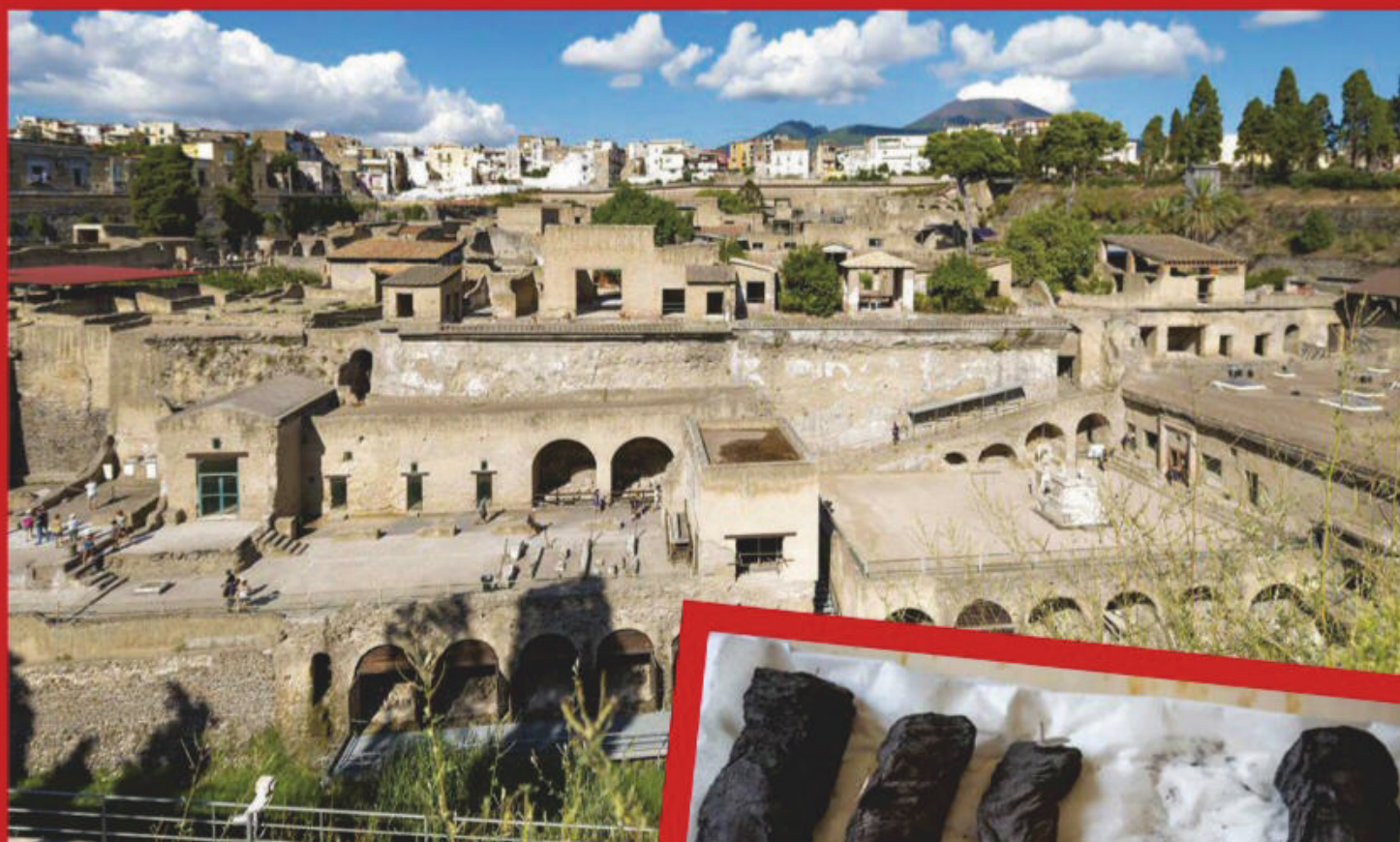
Pompeii may be better-known for being destroyed by the eruption of Vesuvius, but Herculaneum suffered the same fate. And, today, it is every bit as impressive to visit. Being much smaller – with an ancient population estimated at less than half of Pompeii’s, at 4,000-5,000 – Herculaneum is, in fact, easier to take in.

The town was wealthier than Pompeii, and boasted even more luxurious villas. The so-called Villa of the Papyri was found to contain an unprecedented quantity of sculptures, as well as the only library from the ancient world to survive intact. The eruption served to carbonise the scrolls, nearly 1,800 of which were found in the 18th century. Scholars are still unravelling them

and developing scanning methods to read the contents. Many have been revealed to feature works of Epicurean philosophy.

Another Herculaneum villa became known as the House of the Wooden Partition after the miraculous survival of folding doors, used to separate the study from the atrium. Wooden roofs and furniture were also preserved under the ash.

Until the 1980s, few bodies had been unearthed at Herculaneum, leading archaeologists to believe that most of the residents escaped. But the excavation of the boat houses uncovered hundreds of skeletons – gathered together as attempts to flee the eruption failed. In Pompeii, the voids of decomposed bodies have also been found.



ABOVE: The ruins of Herculaneum, in the town of Ercolano RIGHT: Scrolls of papyrus survived as fragile carbonised blocks



pyroclastic surges – of volcanic ash, gas and rock over the region.

Back in Misenum, Pliny the Younger described the hysteria at this sight. He had tried to escape with his mother, but feared being trampled by the terrified crowds. They watched “a terrifying black cloud, burst by twisting, quaking flickers of flame” with “long fiery tongues, like lightning, only bigger”.

Amidst the screaming and wailing, he saw people lift their hands to the gods, although most “reasoned that there were now no gods anywhere and that the night would last for ever and ever across the universe”. Pliny the Younger was at a comparatively safe distance from the volcano in Misenum

– the situation had become desperate across the bay.

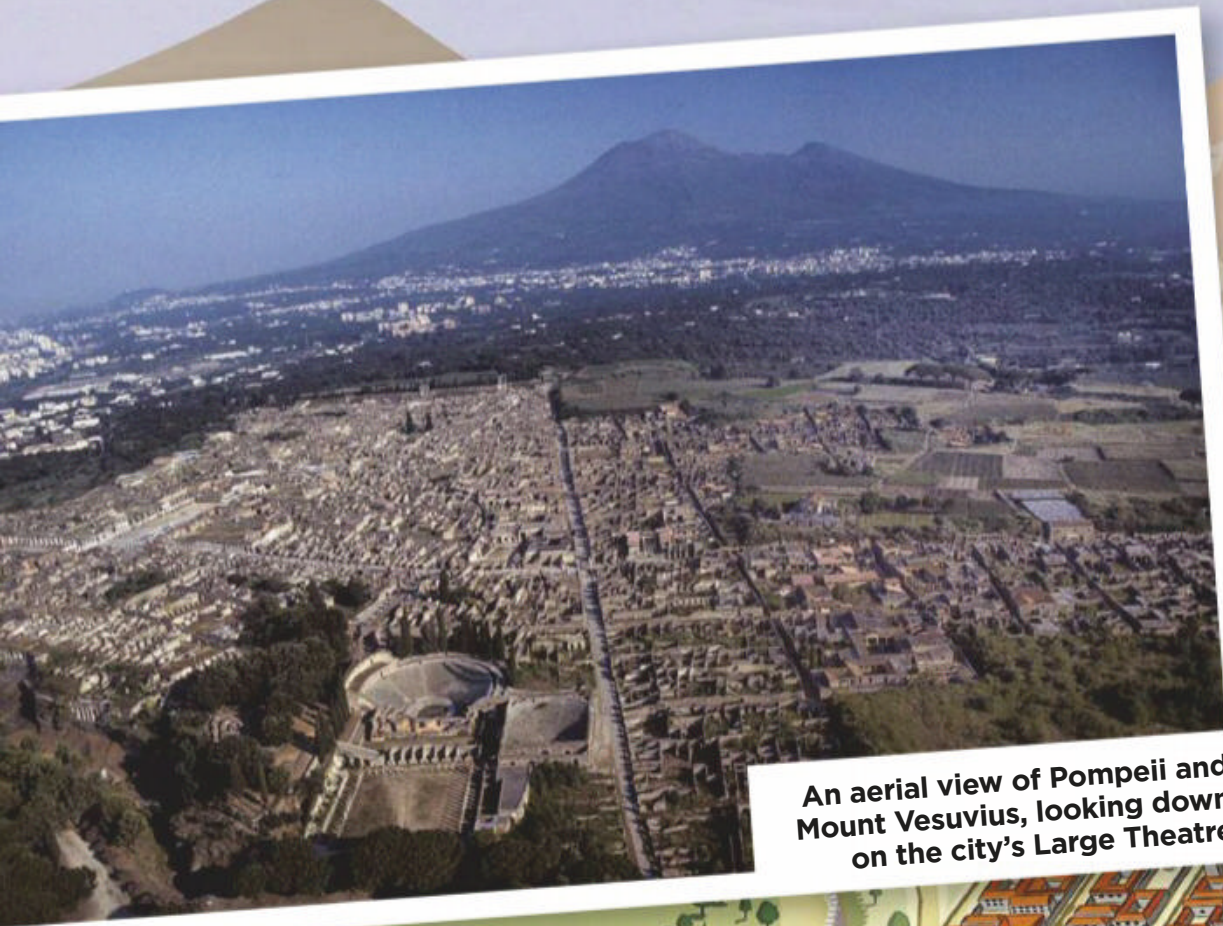
Herculaneum, at the base of Vesuvius, was engulfed by the first two pyroclastic surges. Hundreds of people had tried to take cover inside the boat houses along the coast, only for currents of magma and gas to hurtle towards them at a temperature of 400 degrees Celsius. They perished in the heat. Those in Pompeii suffered the force of three further surges. These killed everyone left by heat or asphyxiation, and completed the burial of the city.

There is no surviving eyewitness account of the scenes in Pompeii and



# POMPEII

The sprawling ruins of Pompeii, with the looming presence of Vesuvius in the near distance, offer an extraordinary insight into life in an ancient Roman city. All aspects of Roman life are here – from the magnificent and public Forum, which functioned as Pompeii's administrative and business centre, to the bakeries, shops and even brothels that formed part of daily life in the city



An aerial view of Pompeii and Mount Vesuvius, looking down on the city's Large Theatre

## 191

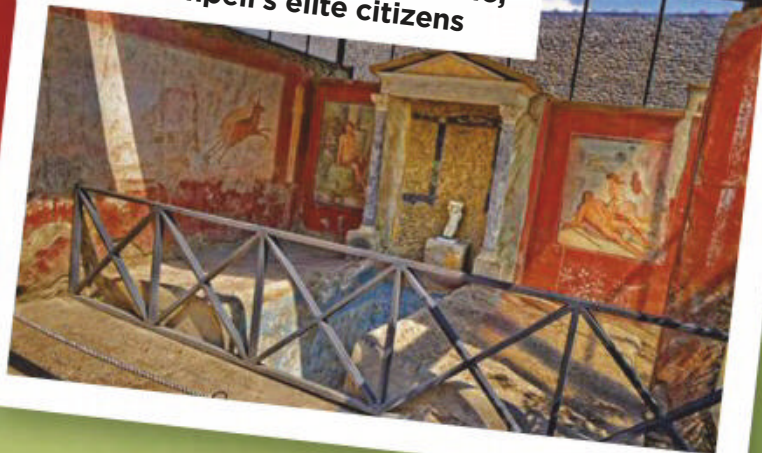
Examples of ancient graffiti scrawled on the walls of the Basilica in Pompeii's Forum. As well as scratched names, there are also more unusual outbursts. One piece of graffiti reads: "Chios, I hope your piles irritate you so they burn like they've never burned before"



### 9. THE HOUSE OF OCTAVIUS QUARTIO

This house would have been a typical dwelling for Pompeii's elite. The site is known for its extensive, well-preserved, gardens which boasted artificial waterways, waterfalls and fountains. The house itself included a small room, thought to be a shrine dedicated to the goddess Isis, as well as a small office, a large open room, known as the atrium, and an outdoor dining area. Decimus Octavius Quartio – a prominent and rich Pompeii citizen – was the house's last-known owner.

A fountain and water course in the gardens of Octavius Quartio, one of Pompeii's elite citizens



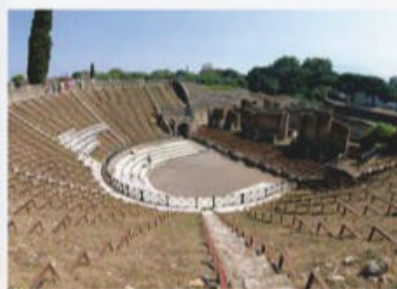




Pompeii's amphitheatre could seat up to 20,000 people

### 1. AMPHITHEATRE

Built around 70 BC, Pompeii's amphitheatre could hold up to 20,000 people. In AD 59, a bloody riot between spectators from Pompeii and nearby Nuceria saw games banned at the venue for ten years.



### 2. LARGE THEATRE

The theatre, built in the mid-2nd century BC, was used for performances of Greek-Roman comedies and tragedies. In adverse weather, a velarium (awning) could be stretched over the spectator area.



### 3. QUADRIPORTICAS /GLADIATOR BARRACKS

Initially used as a foyer in which theatregoers could gather during performance intervals, this area became a barracks for gladiators after an earthquake in AD 62.



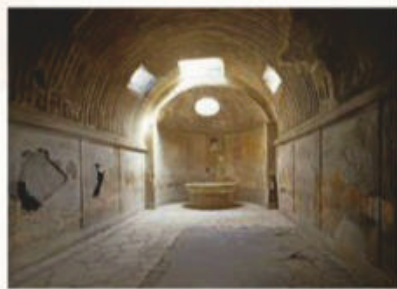
### 4. SANCTUARY OF APOLLO

One of Pompeii's oldest places of worship, the sanctuary sits in the heart of the city. Apollo, god of poetry, art, archery, plague, sun, light, music and knowledge, was the main divinity of early Pompeii.



### 5. FORUM

The core of daily life, the Forum was the focal point for city administration and justice, as well as trade - such as markets - and religious activity.



### 6. FORUM BATHS

Located behind the Forum's Temple of Jupiter, the baths had separate entrances for men and women. The larger men's quarters boasted a dressing room, frigidarium (cold baths), caldarium (hot baths) and tepidarium (warm baths).

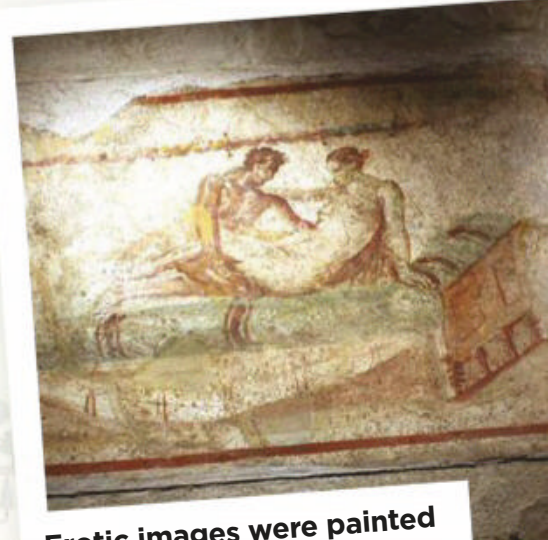


### 7. BAKERY OF POPIDIO PRISCO

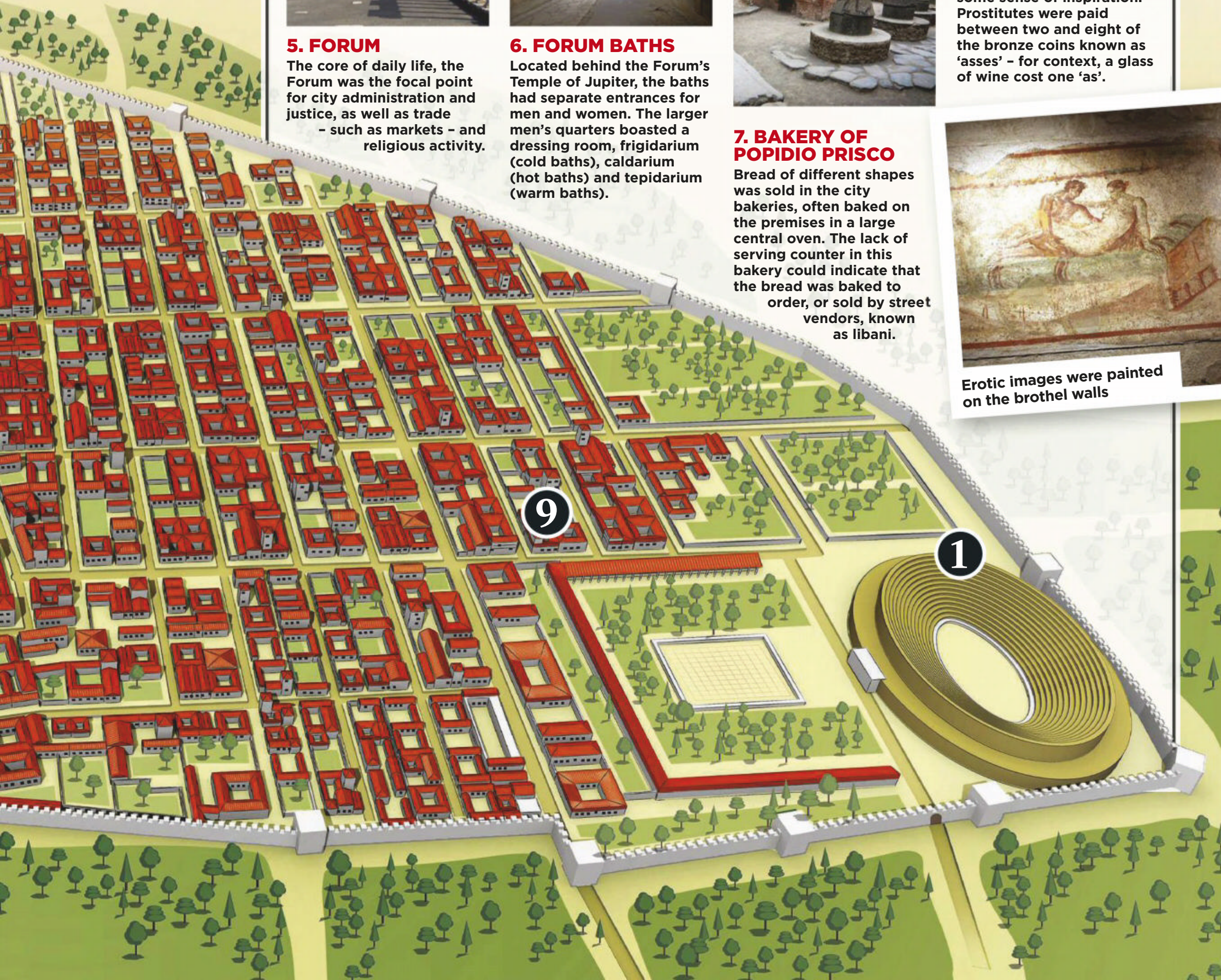
Bread of different shapes was sold in the city bakeries, often baked on the premises in a large central oven. The lack of serving counter in this bakery could indicate that the bread was baked to order, or sold by street vendors, known as libani.

### 8. BROTHEL

This two-storey brothel had five ground-floor rooms, all containing a built-in bed, while erotic paintings gave customers some sense of inspiration. Prostitutes were paid between two and eight of the bronze coins known as 'asses' - for context, a glass of wine cost one 'as'.



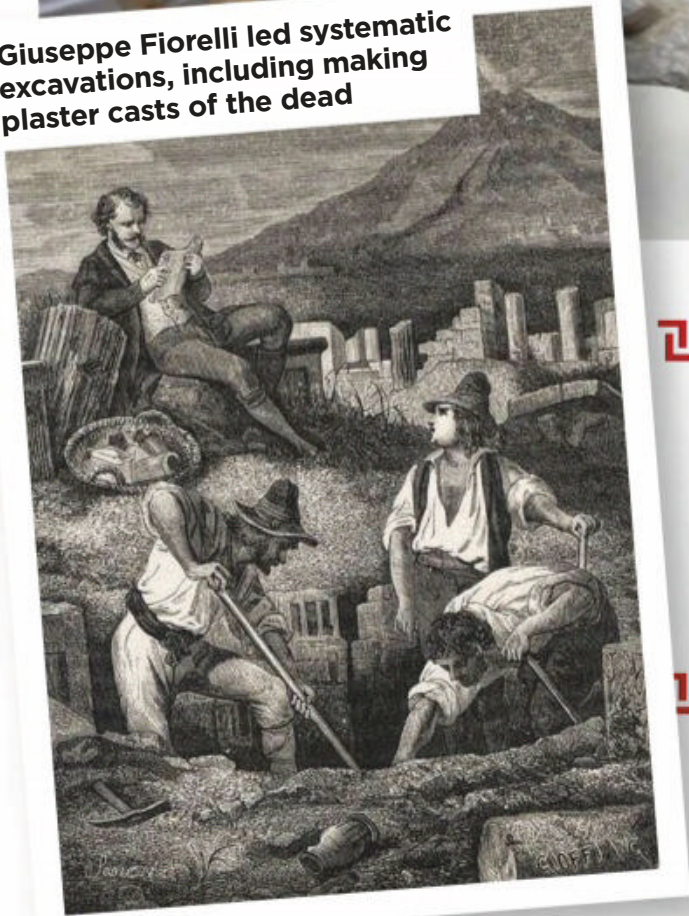
Erotic images were painted on the brothel walls







Giuseppe Fiorelli led systematic excavations, including making plaster casts of the dead



Plaster casts, seen here during restoration efforts, preserved the final moments of the terrified people of Pompeii

## “Victims huddled together in comfort as the end came”

archaeological findings. His description of a large pine tree-shaped cloud rising and then collapsing with heavy pumice fall is particularly admirable. The archaeological evidence also provides additional information about the deaths – and more importantly, the lives – of the ancient citizens of Pompeii.

We know that the eruption gave little opportunity for Pompeians to escape. Those who perished were buried under a layer of pumice and ash that reached up to 20 metres thick. The decomposition of their bodies over the centuries left cavities in the volcanic deposit, into which a 19th-century archaeologist named Giuseppe Fiorelli poured plaster in order to make casts of their final poses. Many victims were found to be huddled together to comfort one another as the end came.

Well over 1,000 bodies have been discovered at Pompeii to date, and

as sections of the city have yet to be excavated it is likely that more will come to light. It is, however, clear that many people did manage to get away. While estimates of Pompeii’s population size vary, it is thought that between 10,000 and 15,000 lived there at the time of the eruption, suggesting that the majority of Pompeians fled the volcano in time.

### VIBRANT CENTRE

In spite of the substantial damage caused by the earthquake less than two decades before the eruption, Pompeii was a flourishing destination for the wealthy and distinguished. At a little over 160 acres, the city was dwarfed by Rome, which may have housed in excess of a million people. But Pompeii had become a vibrant centre with well-built roads, baths, theatres, bakeries and food bars and stalls. Some scholars believe the name ‘Pompeii’ derives from the ancient word *pompe*, meaning ‘five’, a result of the city being founded when five villages joined together.

Pompeians lived in villas built on the roadsides, with some having balconies on the first floor so they could watch the goings-on below. Visitors entered the villa at the atrium, at the centre of which was an impluvium, or sunken pool, to collect rain water. Larger houses would also have their own water supply, while

**Herculaneum.** Pliny the Younger would, in later life, write down what happened in Misenum and Stabiae, where his uncle had ventured in the midst of the eruption. Standing on the coast, Pliny the Elder had found the sea too wild to escape, and died, apparently asphyxiated by a volcanic cloud.

Relying on both his memory and reports obtained after the disaster, Pliny the Younger wrote two letters to his friend, the Roman historian Tacitus, which remain the only first-hand accounts of the eruption. Although nearly 30 years had passed by the time Pliny the Younger composed them, he was mindful of being accurate and his words are certainly supported by the





1. The exquisite frescoes of the Villa of Mysteries, discovered with surprisingly little damage in 1909  
 2. An ancient fast-food restaurant, the Thermopolium of Asellina, where hot food was sold from counter-top containers  
 3. Cart tracks can still be seen in the roads of Pompeii  
 4. A preserved painting depicting the distribution of bread  
 5. Loaves of bread, like this one, survived the centuries inside bakery ovens



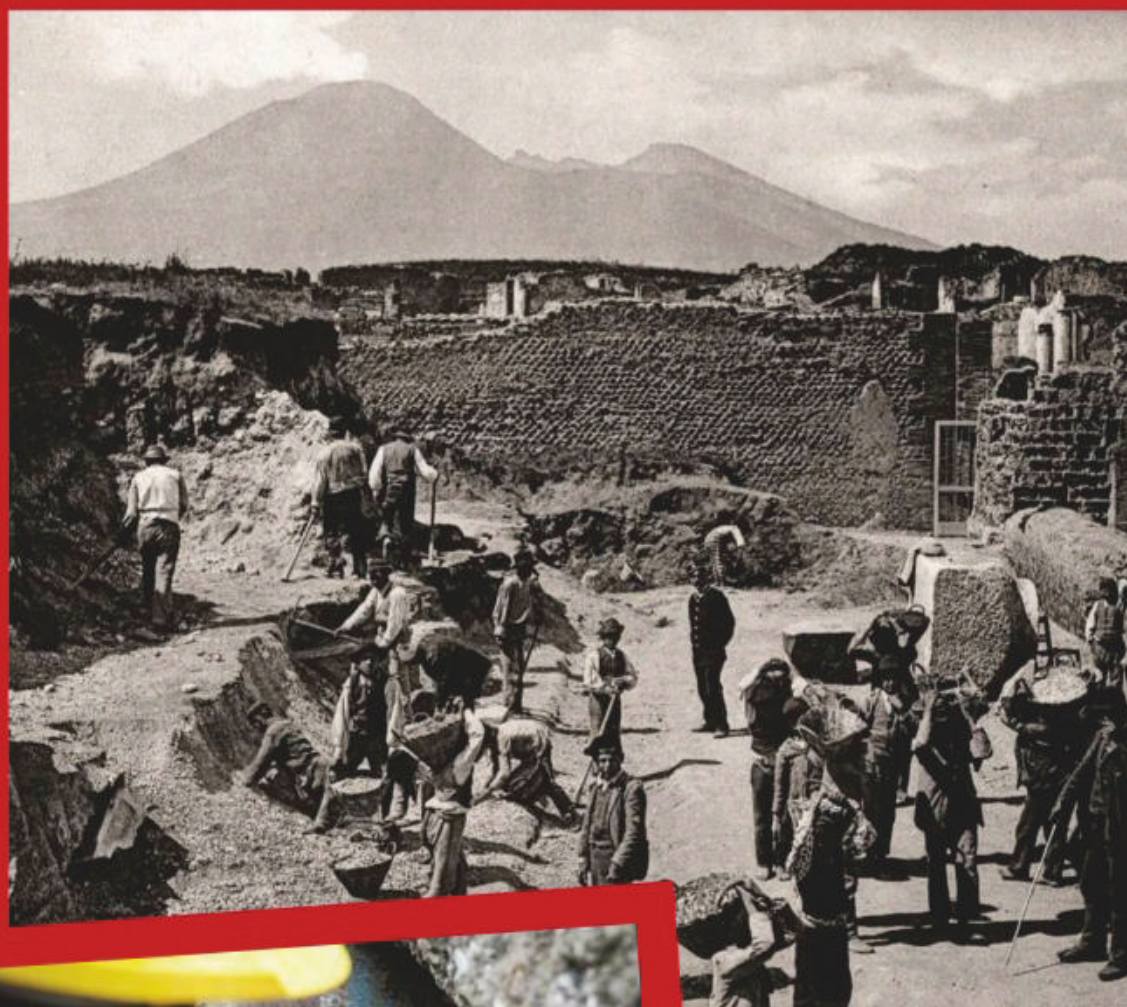


# POMPEII RISES FROM THE ASHES

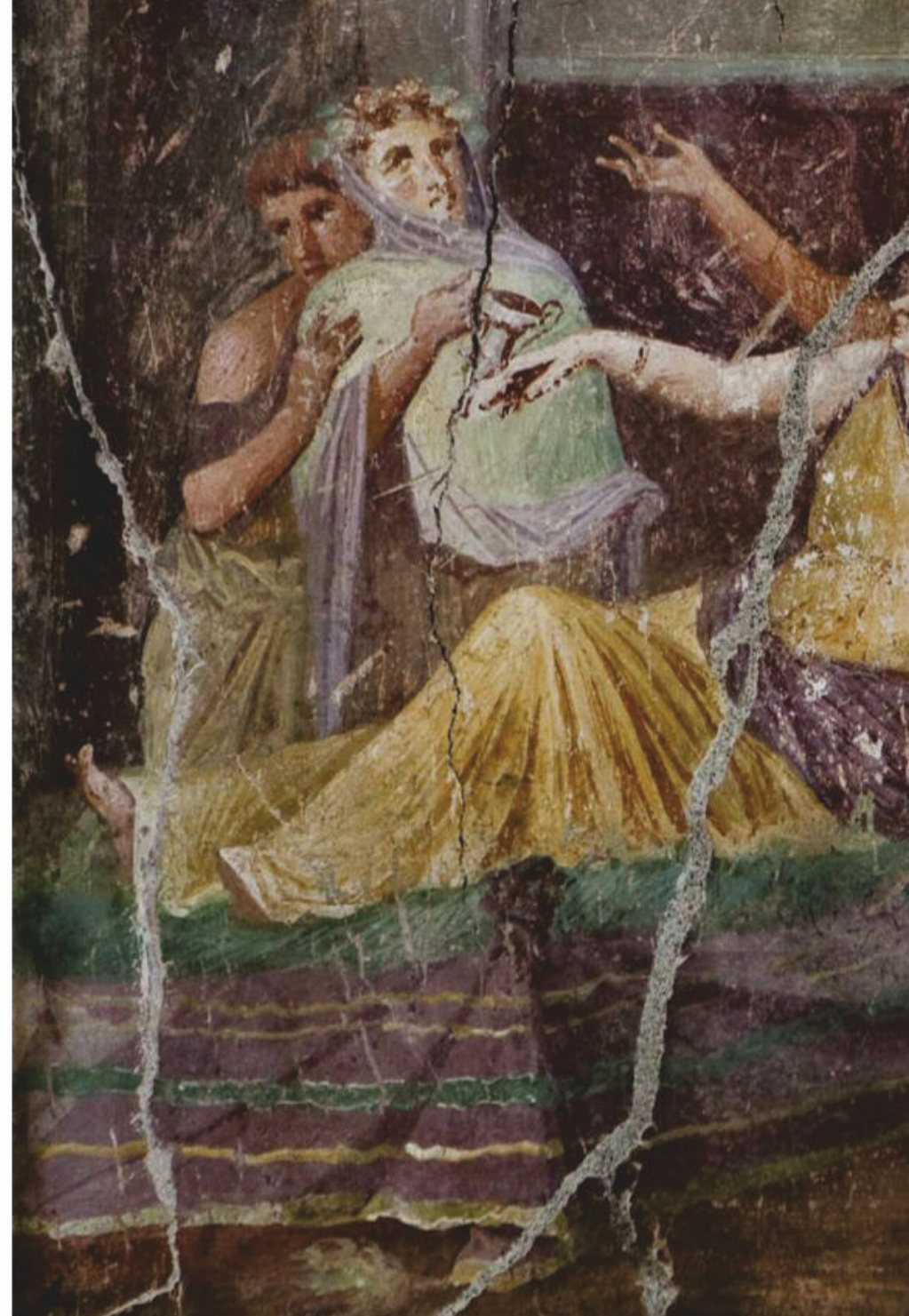
In the late 16th century, an Italian architect stumbled upon the ruins of Pompeii while digging a canal, but little came of the discovery. It would be another 150 years before excavating the buried city began in earnest. At the instruction of the future King Charles III of Spain, excavations got underway in 1748 by a Spanish military engineer named Rocque Joaquín de Alcubierre – the man who had been digging at Herculaneum a decade earlier. But the initial priority was not to protect and stabilise the structures found under the thick layers of ash, but to lift treasures or valuable art objects.

Only when Italian archaeologist Giuseppe Fiorelli took charge in the 1860s did the excavations become more systematic. It was Fiorelli who took plaster casts of the voids in the ash left by the bodies of the dead. The findings at Pompeii and Herculaneum inspired new forms of archaeology and influenced new waves of interest in ancient worlds across Europe.

Recently, an area of north Pompeii has been excavated for the first time as part of the €105-million (around £96 million) Great Pompeii Project. This latest series of investigations has uncovered remarkable mosaics, wall paintings, and a colourfully decorated bar used for serving hot food. With a significant proportion of Pompeii still to be excavated, we may hope to see even more ancient works of art in the future.



**ABOVE:** The archaeological methods used well into the 20th century were the same as introduced by Giuseppe Fiorelli **LEFT:** A fresco, unearthed in 2018, shows the mythical story of Leda and the Swan



“This part of Italy was a major exporter of wine, but the grapevines would be blackened”

public fountains provided residents with a further source of refreshment. All were fed by an aqueduct attached to the mighty Aqua Augusta. Off the atrium of a building was a tablinum, or study, for private work and business, as well as bedrooms and other spaces.

Some homes had businesses built into them. The front of a villa, for example, might serve as a shop. In Pompeii was a large fullonica, where people sent their dirty laundry, particularly their togas, to be cleaned and pressed. To help brighten the whites, the laundry was soaked in urine. Clothes became filthy easily, not least as people ate mainly with their hands. While the poorer members of society frequented the street bars, the rich preferred to dine in their own triclinium, or dining room, so-named

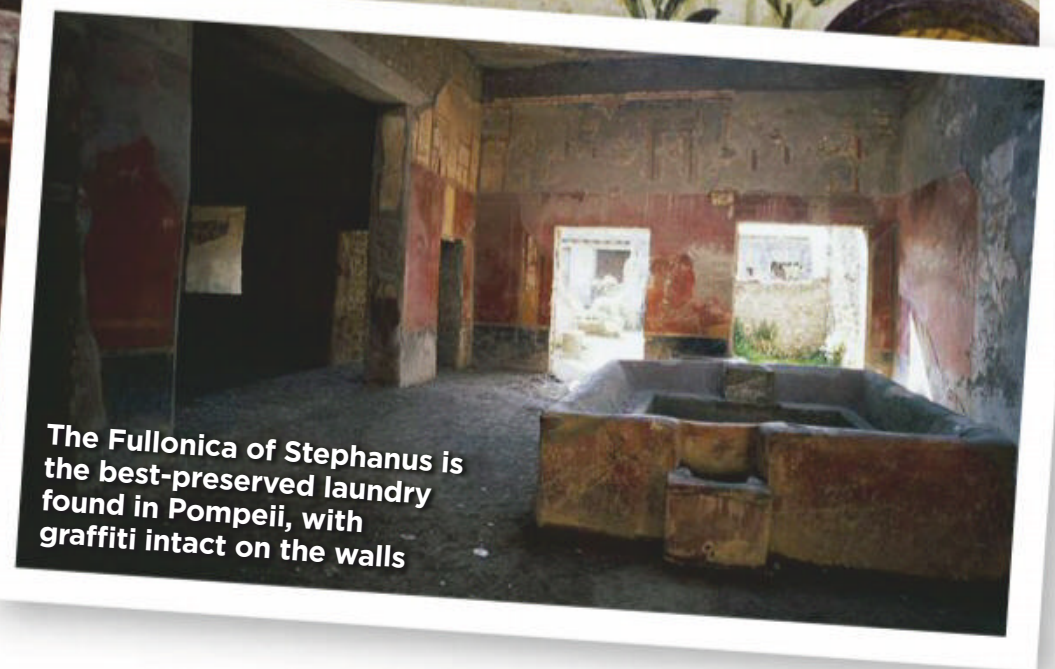




A fresco showing Romans feasting in a triclinium (formal dining room), discovered in the House of Chaste Lovers in Pompeii



Bacchus, god of wine, in front of Vesuvius – which changed shape due to the force of the eruption



The Fullonica of Stephanus is the best-preserved laundry found in Pompeii, with graffiti intact on the walls

for the three couches arranged along the perimeter. Men and women reclined on these to feast on delicacies, such as dormice stuffed with pork meat. Dinners ran, it was said, *ab ovo usque ad mala*, or ‘from the egg to the apples’ – where eggs came as hors d’oeuvres at the beginning, and fresh food like figs, nuts and apples were served for dessert.

## IN THE SHADOW

As in the rest of the empire, many people in Pompeii kept slaves. Some had a handful, but wealthier households could own hundreds. Pliny the Younger, having survived the volcanic disaster and inherited his uncle’s estate, became a wealthy lawyer and politician with various homes across Italy, all of them maintained by at least 500 slaves. They could win their freedom, or be ‘released from the hand’ of their master, and as ‘freedmen’ build comfortable and sometimes extravagant lives for themselves.

Pompeii was thriving before the eruption as a centre for viticulture – the growing of grapes for wine, for which Campania was rightly famous. This part of Italy was a major exporter and main supplier of wine to Rome, although this did not please everyone. Pliny the Elder disapproved of drinking

to excess and said the wine of Pompeii would induce hangovers in those who imbibed it. Such was the importance of the wine industry that a wall painting has been found depicting Bacchus, god of agriculture and wine, surveying the fertile grapevines on Vesuvius. These grapevines would be blackened and lost along with Pompeii.

According to later accounts, volcanic ash reached as far as Egypt and Syria, while in Campania itself, the toxic air spread a “terrible pestilence” among those who returned. Yet despite the impact upon the region, the recovery began immediately. Titus, who had succeeded his father Vespasian as emperor only months before the disaster, hastened to the Bay of Naples. He put some senators in charge of the restoration of what was salvageable, and raised funds to aid the relief effort. A poet from Naples, Statius, even predicted that future generations would forget what had been buried “when the crops and these abandoned soils grow green again”.

Sure enough, greenery began to return to the region within decades of the eruption, and, astonishingly, by the time Pliny the Younger was in his mid-30s, Campania had already regained its reputation as a place of immense

fertility. His wife Calpurnia was one of many Romans who visited the area in the belief that it would benefit their health.

Today, we are not, perhaps, so very different in the way we view the areas surrounding Vesuvius. The beauty of the landscape and richness of its history attract millions of visitors every year. For the people who live in the shadow of Vesuvius, the risk of another eruption, while always present, pales in significance beside the benefits afforded by such fertile surroundings.

Fortunately for Pompeians today, there is technology to monitor the volcano’s activity, and evacuation plans in the event of a major eruption. It is chilling to think how many more people may have survived the disaster of AD 79 had they only known what lurked beneath those vibrant green slopes. 📍

## GET HOOKED

### READ

Daisy Dunn’s biography of both Plinys, *In the Shadow of Vesuvius: a Life of Pliny* (William Collins, 2019)

### ON THE PODCAST

Daisy discusses Pompeii and the Plinys on the History Extra podcast. [www.historyextra.com/podcasts](http://www.historyextra.com/podcasts)



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# 10 DANCES THAT SHOOK THE WORLD

Felicity Day shows us the moves behind the dance crazes that had the power to challenge the status quo

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## LA VOLTA

You only have to hear about the intimate signature move of la volta – ‘the turn’ in Italian, a nod to its origin – to understand why the dance scandalised Elizabethan England. To perform the ‘caper’, a man clasped his female partner tightly around the waist with his left hand, took hold of the busk (the rigid point on the corset below her bosom) with his right, and lifted her high into the air so that his thigh was under her bottom.

The combination of a close embrace and athletic manoeuvre was deemed shockingly suggestive, and, it was claimed, could result in a miscarriage. Yet the greatest risk was actually to a lady’s modesty. Any woman dancing la volta was advised to clamp her free hand on her skirts “lest the swirling air should catch them” and reveal a flash of petticoat, or worse, a bare thigh.

Along with the caper, there were hops, skips and turns galore. Ladies clothed in heavy, embroidered dresses apparently got so hot and sweaty that they were forced to change their under-linen during court festivities, incensing the moralists even more.



La Volta has a turn in the 1953 film *The Sword and the Rose*

### DID YOU KNOW?

Dance marathons became a craze during the Great Depression in the US, but in 1923, a 27-year-old man named Homer Morehouse died of heart failure after dancing non-stop for 87 hours.

Dancers weaving around each other holding ribbons was too pagan for the Church



## MAYPOLE DANCING

The church in England didn’t usually interfere with maypole dancing – a part of traditional May Day festivities, which may have begun as a pagan fertility ritual – but they did not entirely approve, either. One bishop in the 13th century chose to act by forbidding the decoration of a maypole in his diocese. The Puritans despised the tradition. To them, the maypole was a “stinckyng idoll” and to dance around its decorated form was an unchristian act of idolatry. In 1644, it was outlawed as a “heathenish vanity, generally abused to superstition and wickedness” – the latter probably a reference to the drinking and revelling that often accompanied May Day celebrations.

Maypoles in Britain were smashed or burned, only to be jubilantly re-erected when Charles II was restored to the throne in 1660. But even in the 1770s, the dances faced opposition from those, like antiquarian John Brand, who regarded it as a “dishonour of religion”.

## THE WALTZ

Country dances of early 18th-century Europe were dignified affairs as couples promenaded side by side, lightly clasping hands. So when the waltz invaded upper-class ballrooms in the early 19th century, it came as a shock. The energetic, whirling dance originating from Austria required men and women to get up close and personal. Admittedly not that close (couples were at arm’s length), but that was a level of contact that caused outrage in Regency society. A piece in *The Times* raged against the “voluptuous intertwining of the limbs, and close compressure on the bodies”, labelling waltzing as an “obscene display”.

The waltz was intimate in another way, too. The dancing couple were now a solitary unit, face to face and focused only on each other. Even the most zealous of chaperones would struggle to overhear their conversation. While the waltz’s notoriety was short-lived – by 1816, it was widely accepted – its popularity marked the end of dancing as a sociable, community affair, which, for many, was its biggest offence.



The intimate nature of the waltz scandalised polite society



# THE CAN-CAN

It was saucy, comprised of women-only line ups and was iconically French – but the high-kicking can-can didn't start that way. In 1830s Paris, 'cancan' referred to an improvised addition to the quadrille – a dance for couples – and was usually performed by men showing off their athletic prowess with kicks and jumps. It wasn't until the 1870s that it really started to shock prudish Victorians, when the balance shifted from male participation to male voyeurism.

Paris's female dancers began performing the can-can's kicks and splits in dance-halls, and added the waving of their skirts. By the 1880s, flashing multiple frilly white petticoats was an essential part of the routine, and the can-can as we now know it was established. The intentionally revealing moves were seductive for some – such as the patrons of the Moulin Rouge – but revolted many more, who thought them “suggestive of the most indecent acts”.



The can-can was originally a dance performed by athletic men



A young Victoria and Albert even had a polka written for them

## THE POLKA

The polka created a “veritable delirium” when it burst into the ballrooms of Europe in the 1830s and 1840s. It was an intoxicating mix of turns, hops and skips; fast-paced and physically demanding. Young couples were left giddy, red-cheeked and gasping for breath – if they hadn't already got so dizzy they'd spilled off the dancefloor or collided with another pair.

Parents and chaperones disapproved of the embrace required to navigate all the turns successfully, while doctors fuelled concerns about safety with gloomy warnings about the effects of dizziness and sweating bodies on the female reproductive system. In an attempt to dissuade people, one newspaper reported that Queen Victoria had “entirely set her face against the polka”, despite evidence suggesting she and Albert were as keen as any of their contemporaries. Although, the lively dance became so popular so quickly that some were soon bored of it: “Polka-polka-polka-polka – it is enough to drive me mad,” wailed *Punch* in 1844.



# TURKEY TROT

It may sound like a novelty dance, but the turkey trot took the world by storm in the early 20th century. Couples ‘trotted’ forwards and back together, occasionally flapping their elbows to mimic a turkey’s wings and sticking their backsides out. The jerky movements suited the fashionable new ragtime music perfectly and those who nailed its ‘one-step’ could progress to the grizzly bear, bunny hug, or later, the fox trot.

Dance purists loathed it. American cities banned it. A Philadelphia employer fired 15 female employees for dancing it in their lunch hour. The American press even speculated that the dance was the cause of US President Woodrow Wilson cancelling his inaugural ball in 1913, in fear that the guests would be turkey trotting – a rumour he flatly denied.

The infamous animal dances failed to achieve respectability, and that’s despite amusing attempts to pass them off as dances of the ancient world. “It is now hoped that records of the turkey trot may be found in Egyptian inscriptions,” read *The New York Times* in 1913.



# THE CHARLESTON

“The man who invented the charleston was a fit candidate for the lunatic asylum,” pronounced a London councillor. And while the jazzy dance was a hit with young people when it kicked and swivelled its way into 1920s dance halls, this was a sentiment shared by many across the world. The wild kicking, flailing arms, and opening and closing of the knees was undignified at best, and inappropriately suggestive at worst. Doctors wrote ominously of the ill effects too, such as organ displacement, distortion of the ankles and an epidemic of flat feet. Yet arguably the most scandalous thing about it was that, for the first time, women danced on their own, away from the embrace of a male partner.

The dance halls that didn’t ban the charleston often put up ‘PCQ’ notices – ‘Please Charleston Quietly!’ – or asked their orchestra to play only music that made dancing it impossible. The energy and freedoms of the charleston have come to symbolise the Roaring Twenties, especially in the US, but the craze was actually all over within a couple of years.



Hollywood actors Frank Farnum and Pauline Starke twist to the charleston

# THE JITTERBUG

As the name evokes, the jitterbug had a frenzied and feverish energy – far more than its predecessor, the charleston – and needed quick feet and a lot of contact.

In Britain, its popularity was boosted by the influx of American GIs during World War II. To the horror of many in Britain, the jitterbug encouraged exhibitionists, or a complete “lack of self-consciousness” as it was decried. Dancers flaunted their lithe bodies and acrobatic skills by twisting their hips, kicking their legs out wildly and swinging away from each other. Much worse, the women would be thrown into the air or somersaulted over their partners – running the risk of exposing their underwear.

Dance teachers hated the improvisation and swing music, with one critic describing it as “adolescent madness which masquerades under the title of dancing”. A tamer and ultimately more popular version was preferred: the jive.



It was seen as the dance of ‘oversexed, overpaid and over here’ American troops

## DID YOU KNOW?

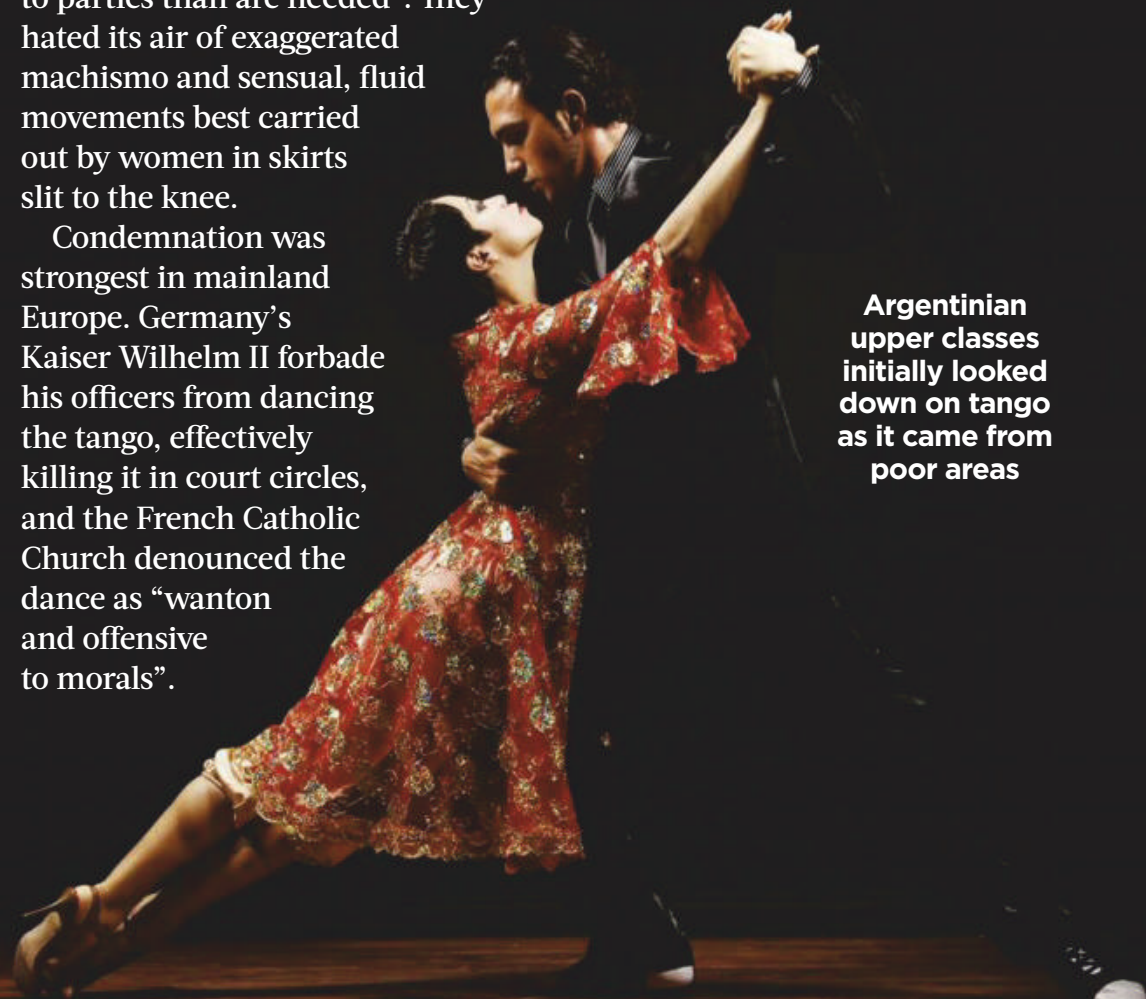
In 1926, the master of ceremonies at a dance hall in Stoke Newington, London, was knocked unconscious as he attempted, for the fifth time, to stop a group of Charleston dancers.

# TANGO

European society in the early 20th century didn’t know what to make of the tango. “Is one supposed to dance it standing up?” commented one French comtesse upon witnessing a performance in a Parisian ballroom. Born in the brothels and bars of Buenos Aires, Argentina, the dance was all racy moves, close embraces and the possibility of improvisation – with the whole thing set to exotic-sounding Latin music – which intrigued a generation enjoying greater social freedoms.

It appalled their elders, though, who observed with flagrant disapproval that for the first time in years the tango was “bringing more young men to parties than are needed”. They hated its air of exaggerated machismo and sensual, fluid movements best carried out by women in skirts slit to the knee.

Condemnation was strongest in mainland Europe. Germany’s Kaiser Wilhelm II forbade his officers from dancing the tango, effectively killing it in court circles, and the French Catholic Church denounced the dance as “wanton and offensive to morals”.



Argentinian upper classes initially looked down on tango as it came from poor areas



# THE TWIST

A craze kickstarted by Chubby Checker with his hit song *The Twist* in 1960, the simple, swivelling dance was all about the hips. “Just pretend you’re wiping your bottom with a towel as you get out of the shower while putting out a cigarette with both feet,” said the American singer. It was so easy to do – “nothing but a movement of the pelvis”, summed up one teacher – and once again it allowed dancers to break free from a partner.

Though they weren’t even touching, the sight of young people gyrating while facing members of the opposite sex was too much for moralists, and television censors, who condemned the twist as vulgar and sexually provocative. Thankfully for them its vogue was brief, though it did spark a trend for other fad dances such as the mashed potato and the pony, none of them any more palatable to the older generation.

Chubby Checker was only 18 when he got the world twisting

**GET HOOKED**

**WATCH**

**BBC one**

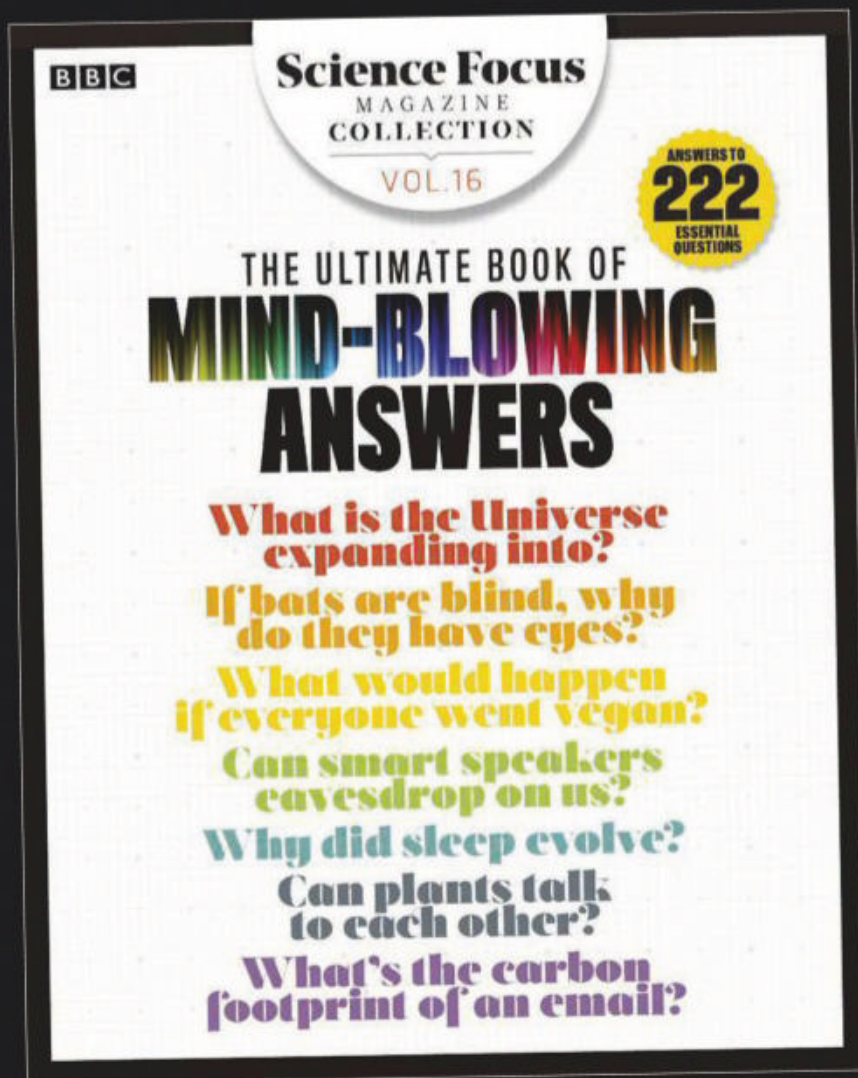
The new series of *Strictly Come Dancing* waltzes onto BBC One this autumn, expected to start in September



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# THE GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH?

**John Woolf** dispels the myths of the Victorian freak show, where dwarves, bearded ladies and others found fame – if not acceptance – in front of rapt crowds



**JOHN WOOLF** is a historian and expert in 19th-century freak shows. He has recently co-written the bestselling audiobook *Stephen Fry's Victorian Secrets* and *The Wonders: Lifting the Curtain on the Freak Show, Circus and Victorian Age*.



**O**n 23 March 1844, a six-year-old dwarf marched into Buckingham Palace. His name was Charles Stratton, AKA General

Tom Thumb, and he was 25in tall. He was dressed in a court suit, and a cocked hat framed his blond hair and rosy cheeks. Towering above him, at 6ft 2in, was the 'greatest showman', PT Barnum.

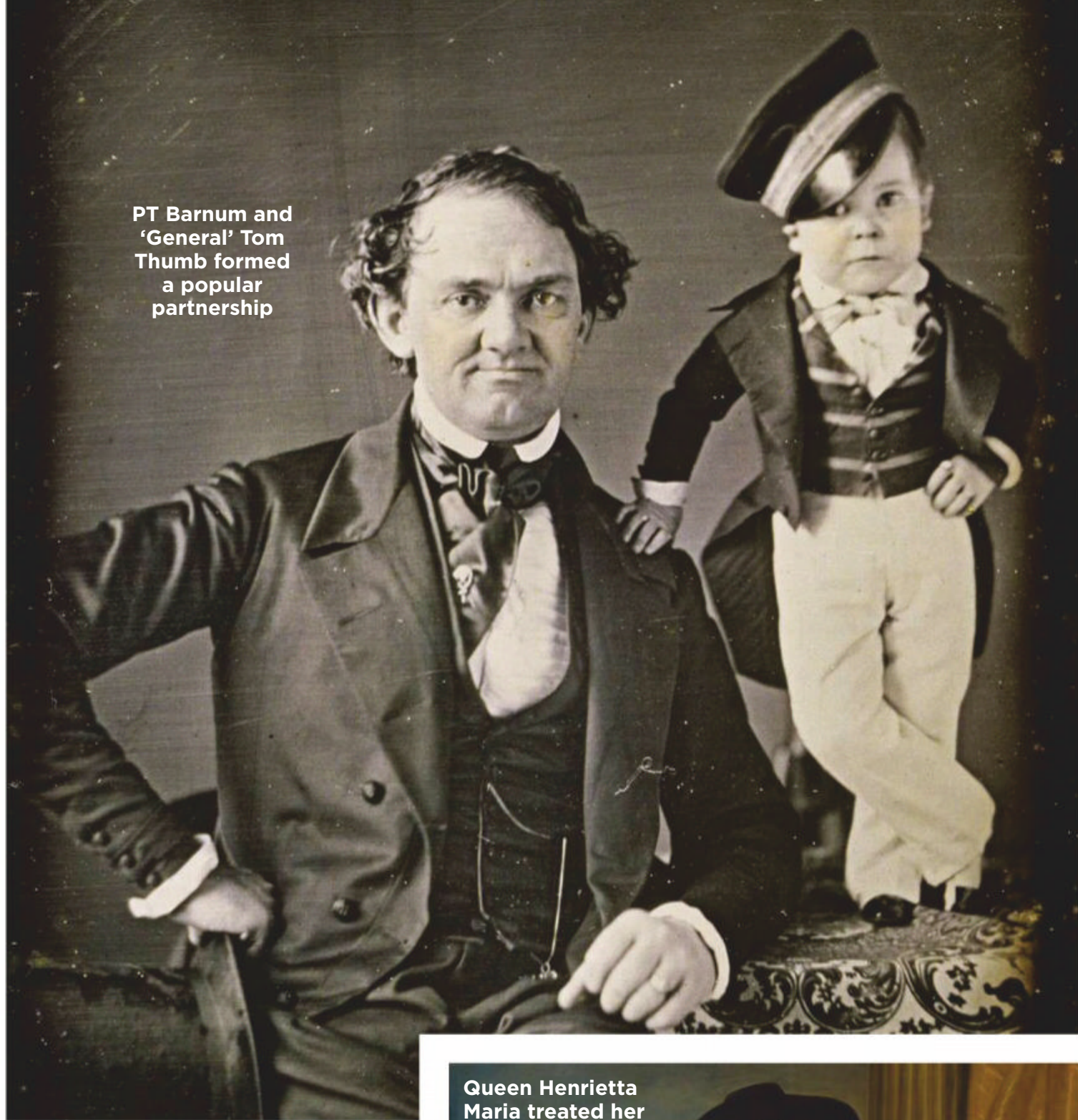
The pair had an audience with Queen Victoria and her retinue of royal guests who were spellbound as Tom performed skits, tricks and impersonations for more than an hour. Victoria was in hysterics when Tom withdrew a small ceremonial sword and started battling with her spaniel. Later that day, the Queen wrote in her diary that Tom was "the greatest curiosity, I, or indeed anybody ever saw". Without realising it, Victoria had given the freak show her royal seal of approval. An entertainment revolution was about to occur.

In many ways, the freak show was an explicitly Victorian institution. Defined as a commercial form of entertainment that peddled physiological difference for amusement and profit, the freak show thrived from the 1840s until 1914. At a time when the Victorians were obsessed with taxonomy and classification, so-called freaks disrupted these boundaries. 'Hermaphrodites' were both male and female. Conjoined twins (then better known as Siamese twins) blurred the boundaries of the individual. Yet the Victorians were enamoured with the 'freak': a term which became synonymous with physical difference in the late 1840s.

Freak shows were embedded within the broader entertainment industry, which developed concurrently with modernisation, industrialisation and urbanisation. The burgeoning middle classes, the introduction of the Saturday half-holiday and the spread of commercial leisure all spurred the growth of a freak industry that thrived on both sides of the Atlantic. New railways, steamships and the proliferation of cheap print made the freak show international. Acts from across the world, and increasingly from colonised areas, traversed the Atlantic, bringing the unusual to audiences who were shocked, entertained, titillated and filled with wonder.

The freak show was the archetypal expression of popular culture, enjoyed by everyone from Queen Victoria to the common man, woman and child. Some shows had private rooms 'for ladies only'; others were designed for the whole family. Some priced the entrance

PT Barnum and 'General' Tom Thumb formed a popular partnership



Queen Henrietta Maria treated her beloved dwarf Jeffrey Hudson as part child, part pet and a part jester



fee on a sliding scale: "reduced prices are in order that the working classes may enjoy the treat", claimed one piece of publicity. The freak show was billed as entertaining and educational, offering the opportunity to learn about the mysteries of the body and the 'realities' of people from foreign lands. No surprise, then, that men of medicine and science, along with ethnologists and anthropologists, flocked to the shows: a potpourri of the peculiar served up as respectable, theatrical, titillating and spectacular.

Crucially, the freak show was never a marginal affair, but a central part of Victorian society connected with broader discourses concerning race, gender, sex, class, science, medicine and disability.

## ANCIENT ROOTS

Freak show history transcends the Victorian age. Cave drawings from the Stone Age document 'monstrous' births. Ancient Egyptians turned dwarfs into both gods and jesters. Aristotle, Cicero, Pliny and Augustine all pondered bodily difference. Representations of the anomalous body proliferated in early modern print culture. By the 17th century,

'monster shows' could be seen in fairs, marketplaces, coffeehouses and taverns across Europe, while dwarfs were also kept as 'pets' inside royal courts.

Indeed, the Victorian freak show was rooted in the palaces of Europe. Charles I and his queen, Henrietta Maria, kept



a collection of human curiosities, the most famous being Jeffrey Hudson. He was only seven years old and 18in tall when he was presented to the Queen—served in a cold baked pie during a royal banquet in 1626.

Jeffrey became a valued companion and entertainer who, during the British Civil Wars, allegedly fought for the Royalists while mounted on horseback. It was during the wars that he killed a member of the Queen’s court in a duel (the gentleman, one Charles Crofts, had mercilessly mocked Jeffrey until the latter could take no more), resulting in his banishment. Jeffrey was subsequently captured by Barbary pirates and enslaved for 25 years. He died an outcast at an unknown location in around 1682.

Jeffrey was certainly not a ‘freak’ in a ‘freak show’, but his presence at court was a forerunner, and he was exhibited in plays and paraded to royal guests. And while his later life was marked by tragedy, in his early years Jeffrey was saved from hardship. He was a valued member of the court. He received a salary, good clothes and an education, and he escaped the transitory and dangerous world of the travelling fairs – the other place from which the Victorian freak show emerged.

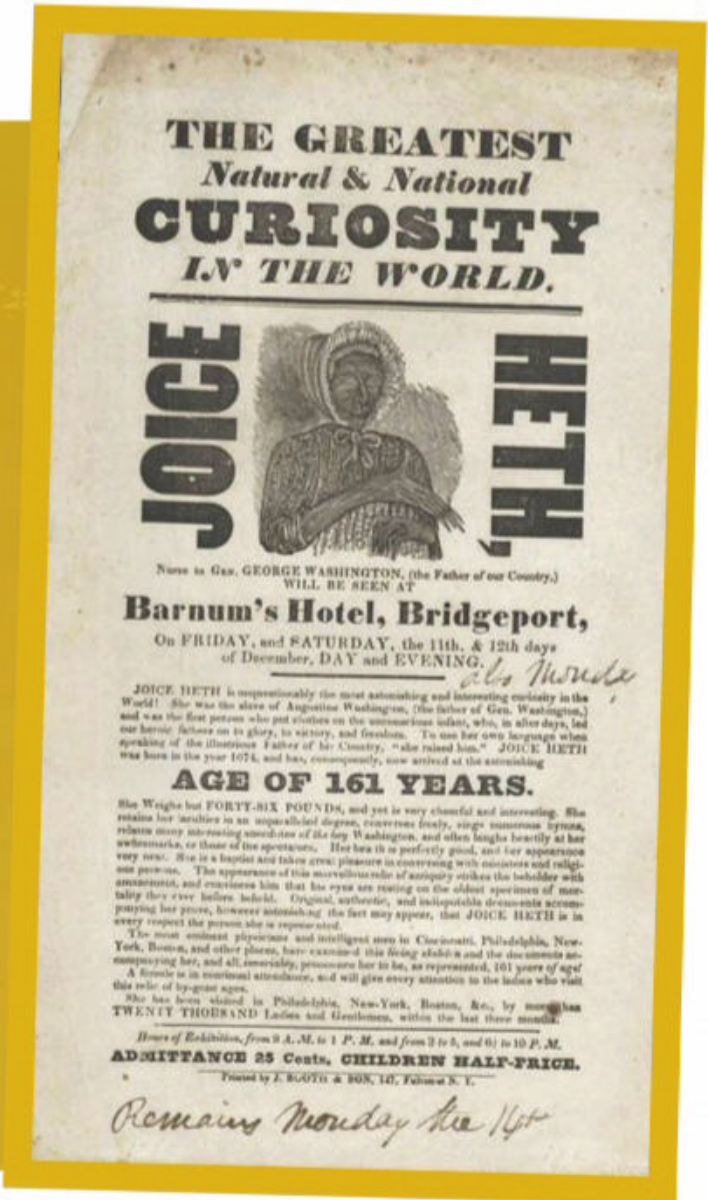
The itinerant fairs had been around since the Middle Ages, traipsing the country selling goods and bringing entertainment. Bartholomew Fair was the most notorious, described by William Wordsworth as a ‘Parliament of Monsters’. In the fairs you could

# THE ARCHITECT

Barnum’s foray into freakery began in 1835 when he exhibited a senile and paralysed slave named Joice Heth. She was billed as the 161-year-old nurse of George Washington, although she was probably only 80. Barnum dragged her across the northeast of America before she died in 1836 and he subsequently arranged her public dissection. He then peddled claims that Joice was in fact alive and that he’d extracted her teeth and starved her to make her appear older. Some of this was hullabaloo but his stories propelled the freak show into the penny press devoured by the working classes.

Barnum then won over the middle classes with his American Museum in New York. From 1841, he transformed the museum into a respectable, family-friendly palace of wonders that centralised the freak show within the entertainment industry. From the 1870s, Barnum popularised the circus sideshow, which featured so-called ‘born freaks’, such as dwarfs, giants, skeleton men, and overweight ladies; what we might call ‘exotic freaks’, such as ‘cannibals’, ‘Zulus’ and ‘savages’, and the ‘self-made freaks’, like tattooed men and those performing novelty acts. It was yet another stage on which the freak show thrived, and another legacy that cemented Barnum’s reputation as one of the great freak showmen.

Joice Heth’s handbill promises that the “living skeleton” has tales aplenty of George Washington as a boy



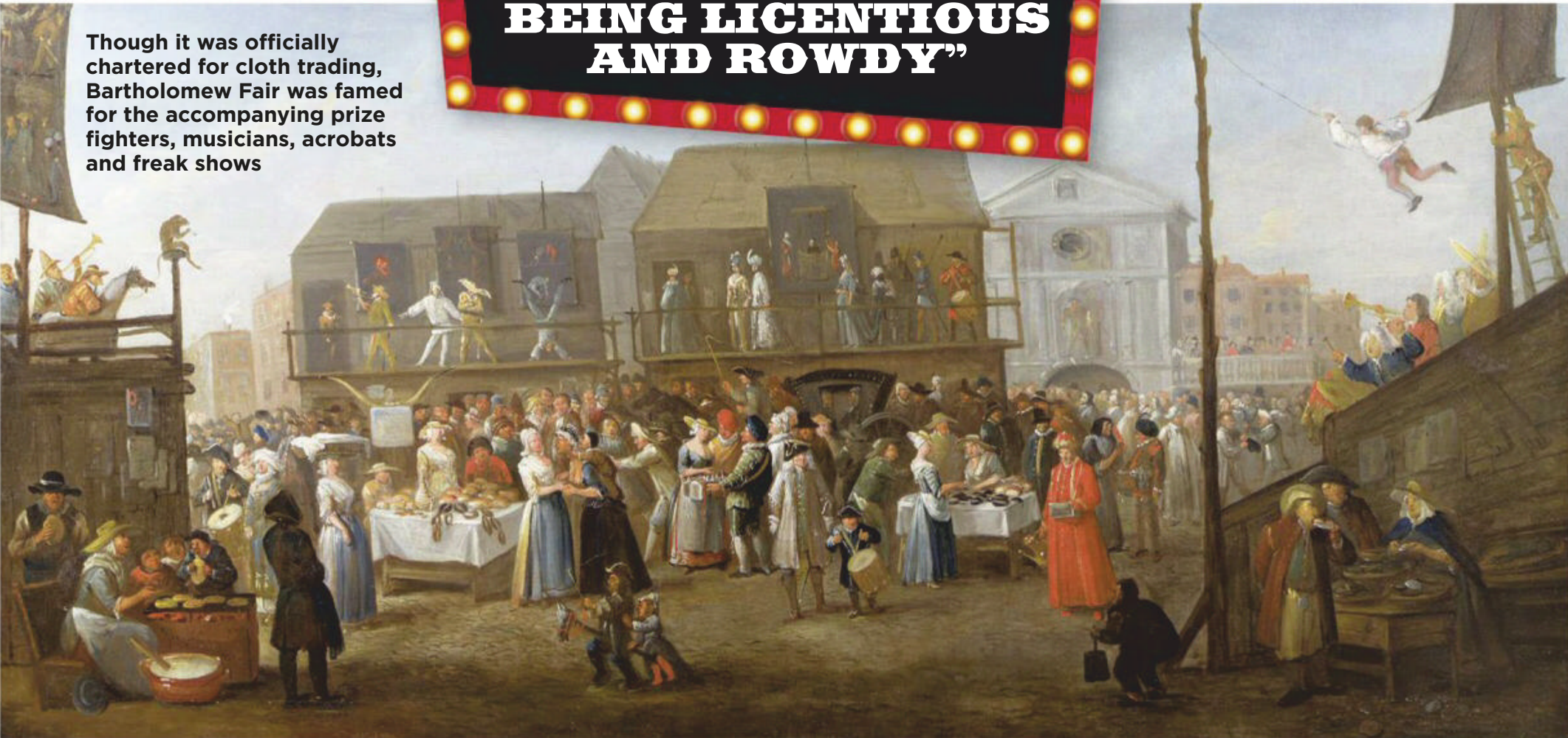
see hermaphrodites, dwarfs, giants, ‘savages’ and ‘cannibals’, who were often introduced by raucous showmen in muddy fields. With the decline of ostentatious courts in the 18th century,

those with what were deemed unusual bodies headed to the fairs, but these sites were seen as licentious, rowdy and subversive so early freak shows carried a stigma.

Things started to change in the early 1800s. In 1829, 18-year-old conjoined twins Chang and Eng held one of the first freak shows in Britain: they were exhibited in a commercial, permanent venue; they had a manager who

“EARLY FREAK SHOWS CARRIED A STIGMA FOR BEING LICENTIOUS AND ROWDY”

Though it was officially chartered for cloth trading, Bartholomew Fair was famed for the accompanying prize fighters, musicians, acrobats and freak shows





1

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N.B.—Any person who can bring forward Two Girls of the same Weight as above enumerated, the representative of this great Exhibition will immediately pay the reward offered.

2



3



4



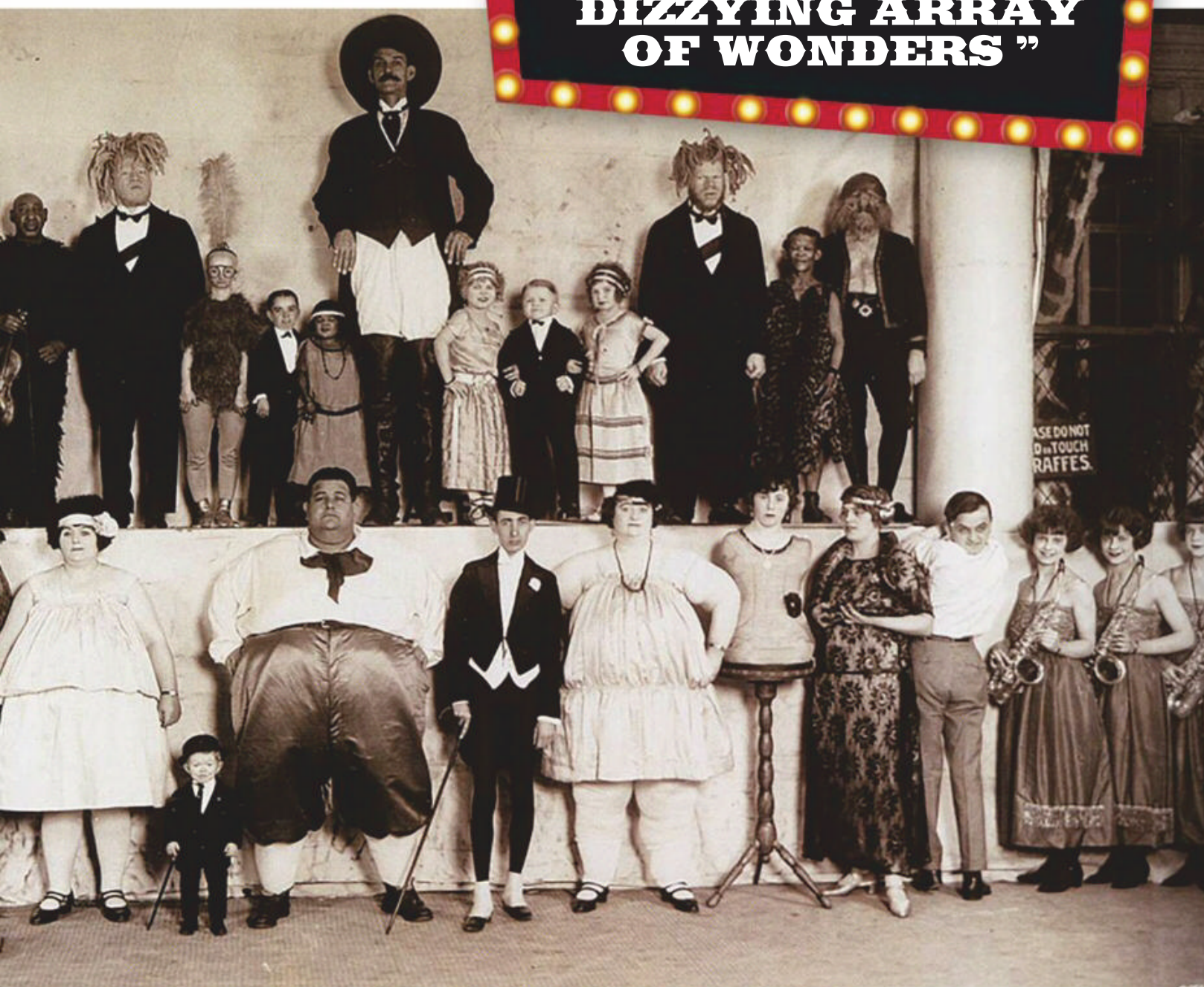
1. Barnum promises \$5,000 to anyone who can bring him two woman as heavy as his ladies
2. The 'giants' Martin Van Buren Bates and Anna Haining Swan - he 7ft 9in, she 7ft 11in - fell in love while at Barnum's American Museum
3. Chang and Eng, the original Siamese twins
4. The line-up at the Ringling Bros and Barnum & Bailey Circus, c1924
5. Conjoined twins Millie and Christine McKoy were born as slaves and exhibited before the age of one
6. Julia Pastrana, 'The Baboon Lady'

ALAMY X2, CENTURY FLASHLIGHT PHOTOGRAPHERS X1, JOHN H. FITZGIBBON/COLLECTION OF ROBERT E. GREEN X1, CENTURY FLASHLIGHT PHOTOGRAPHERS, TOPFOTO X2





**“FOR 25 CENTS,  
PUNTERS COULD  
EXPERIENCE A  
DIZZYING ARRAY  
OF WONDERS”**



introduced the act; there were visual and textual accounts of the show; and there was a performance. The Siamese Twins, as they were known, performed acrobatics and somersaults to an audience who paid half a crown for the pleasure. They could ask questions, touch the connecting ligament and purchase an exhibition pamphlet which told the twins' fabulous story. The show was endorsed by members of the Royal College of Surgeons who were given a private performance and were drawn to the mysteries of the twins' physiology, while the average punter was enticed by the exotic spectacle. In seven months, 100,000 people came to see The Siamese Twins in London.

The freak show was beginning to make its mark on the cultural map of Britain. And there were broader developments that were helping: the authorities were coming down hard on the licentious travelling fairs, pushing freak performers into urban centres to display themselves in permanent venues. In 1841, Barnum purchased the American Museum: an entertainment venue in the heart of New York, which prided itself on being respectable and accessible, especially to the middle classes. For a mere 25 cents, punters from all walks of life could experience a dizzying array of wonders with the freak show forming a central part of the offering. From here, the freak show went international with the help of Stratton – Tom Thumb.

## TALK OF THE TOWN

Barnum discovered the four-year-old Stratton in Bridgeport, Connecticut, in 1842. Stratton had that winning combination of talent, charm and beauty. His proportional yet miniature body made him 'cute' to many Victorians, his stage name Tom Thumb connected him to the world of fairy tales, while his singing and impersonations were amusing and mesmerising in equal measure. He was such a hit in the US that Barnum arranged for his exhibition in Europe, and it was not long before Stratton marched into Buckingham Palace in 1844 to win the heart of Queen Victoria.

Barnum ensured everyone knew about the Queen's endorsement, utilising the developments in advertising and technology to spread the word. Photographs of Tom Thumb appeared, pamphlets were produced, newspapers ran their columns. His portrait was produced in pictorial papers, and songs were sung in his praise. The press referred to him as 'The Pet of the Palace', while



other dwarfs flocked to the capital to ride the wave of Tom Thumb's success.

The press declared a new 'age of the monsters' and a 'Deformito-Mania': an obsession with deformity backed with royal approval. In the process, Barnum and Stratton had created a revolution: the freak show had morphed from a marginal affair associated with lowly travelling fairs, into a respectable form of theatre endorsed by the great and good.

## NOT SO PRUDISH?

Throughout the rest of her reign, Victoria met and patronised freak performers, including Anna Haining Swan and Martin van Buren Bates, two 'giants' married in the royal parish of St Martins-in-the-Fields in 1871, and the conjoined twins, Millie and Christine, who were born into slavery.

The Queen's subjects continued to love freak shows which, by the later part of the century, were occurring at all manner of entertainment sites – from zoos to aquariums, amusement parks to carnivals, museums to music halls.

In 1862, the eccentric naturalist Francis Buckland and the civil servant Arthur Munby headed to a London exhibition billing 'The Embalmed Female Nondescript and Child'. Inside the venue was the corpse of Mexican-born Julia Pastrana whom both men had seen in 1857, when she had sung and danced as 'The Baboon Lady'.

In the preceding years, Julia – who was born with the genetic condition hypertrichosis terminalis, which meant her face and body were covered with an abundance of hair – had married her showman and given birth to a child born with the same congenital condition. Julia and her newborn

## THE DECLINE

There were numerous forces which contributed to the decline of the freak show. In the late 19th century, as science and medicine professionalised, freak performers increasingly went from the stages to the laboratories and asylums. Advances in science pathologised difference, subsequently rendering freaks as aberrations rather than wonders. The advent of social Darwinism turned freak performers into a national threat and the rise of eugenics signalled a corresponding fear that the unfit would hold back the evolutionary advance.

In the aftermath of World War I – after which disabilities were a lot more prevalent – it no longer seemed appealing to gawp at those with deformities. The Entertainment Tax of 1916, which was designed to raise money for the war effort, further harmed the freak show business. Added to this was competition from movies, radio, vaudeville shows and national sports. By the 1940s, the freak show was a shell of its former self, although freak performers often moved onto television screens, (Tod Browning's 1932 film *Freaks* being a classic example), while morphing into other forms of popular culture still with us today. Reality television often relies on the same dynamics – titillation, voyeurism and spectacle.

**1932 horror film *Freaks* – which starred real performers – was deemed so shocking that a third of its runtime had to be cut**



**"TOM THUMB EMERGED AS ONE OF THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL CELEBRITIES"**


son both died soon after the birth; her widower had his dearly deceased embalmed and displayed across Europe.

Buckland responded with a sense of wonder. He was influenced by natural theology, which asserted the centrality of God in nature: Julia was wonderful because she was a case of God's handiwork. Munby was both titillated and disgusted. He pondered Darwinian thinking, which had disrupted man's place in nature following Darwin's *On the Origin of Species* in 1859 – and entertained the possibility that Julia could be the product of an unholy union between ape and man.

Responses to the freak show were always rooted in the context of contemporary thought, yet Julia's story also highlights the question of exploitation. She was clearly mistreated,

as were many others, but there were also examples of empowerment. Many freak performers faced lives of destitution, dependency or incarceration because of their bodies but, in the freak show, many became celebrated performers and active economic agents.

Chang and Eng went on to become US citizens, husbands, fathers and slave-owning farmers. Stratton emerged as one of the world's first international celebrities: a rich gentleman, a loving husband and a renowned actor who met US presidents and European monarchs.

The freak show transformed marginalised individuals into extraordinary figures who lived both triumphant and tragic lives. Its legacy is complex, but its significance should not be ignored. The Victorian freak show was a central part of Victorian society, and remains an important part of disability history. 

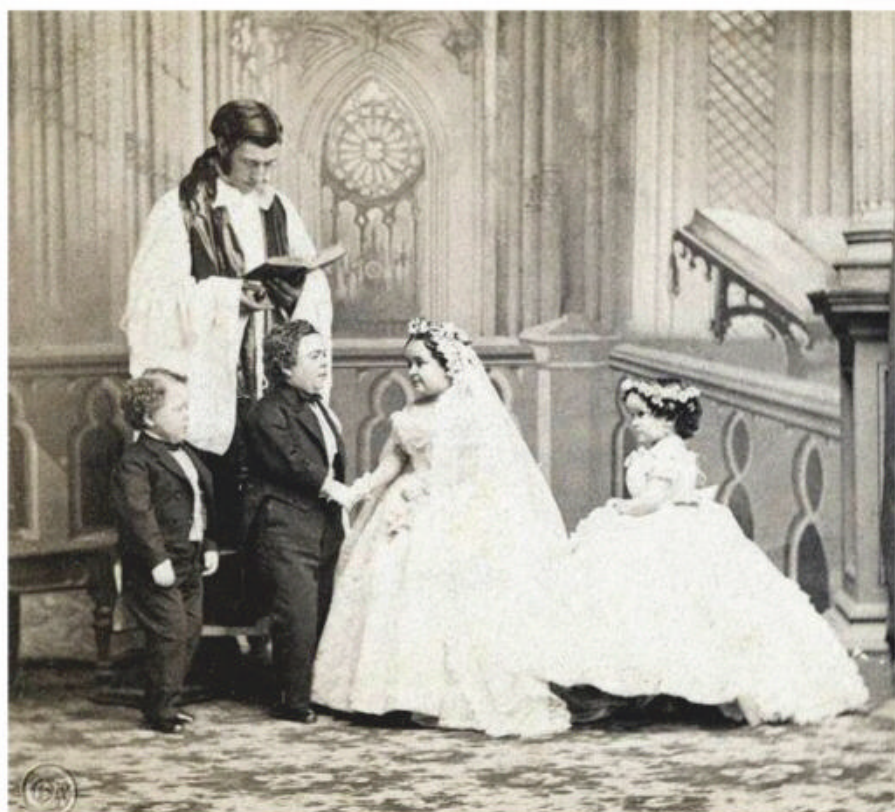
## GET HOOKED

### LISTEN

John Woolf discusses Victorian freak shows on the History Extra podcast: [historyextra.com/freak-show-podcast](https://www.historyextra.com/freak-show-podcast)

### READ

*The Wonders: Lifting the Curtain on the Freak Show, Circus and Victorian Age* by John Woolf (Michael O'Mara, 2019)



**Stratton's marriage to fellow performer Lavinia Warren in 1863, billed as the 'Fairy Wedding', was front-page news**



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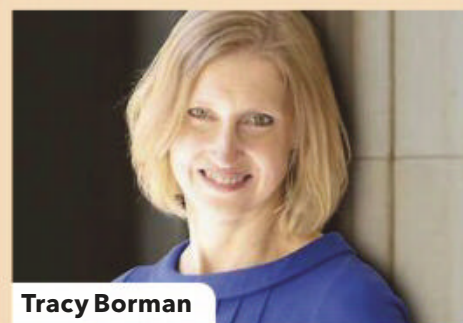
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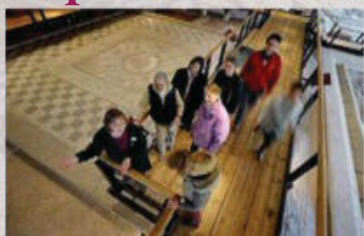
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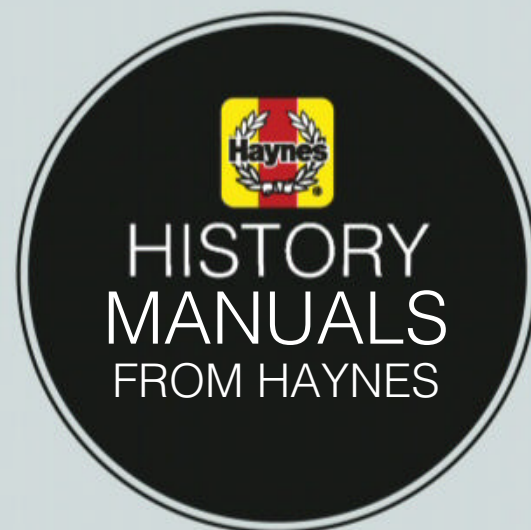


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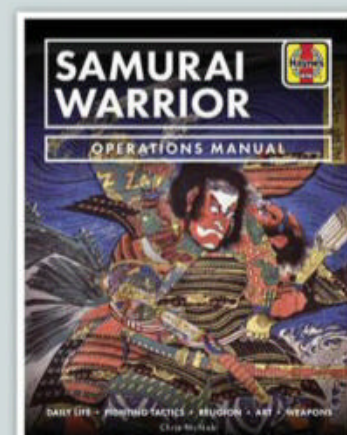


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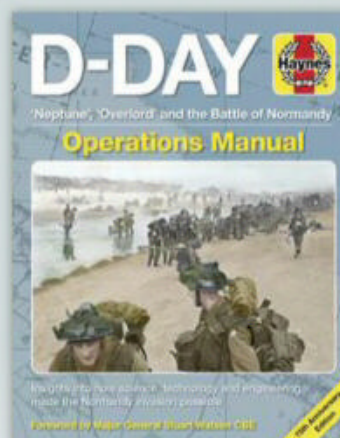
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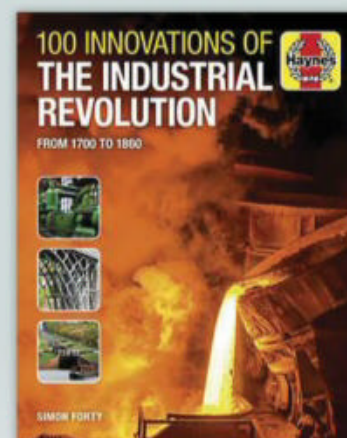
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# Q&A

## YOU ASK, WE ANSWER



**DID YOU  
KNOW?**

### MAKING WAVES

US congressman Ignatius Donnelly had some out-there fringe theories. In an 1882 book, he claimed that Atlantis was not only real, but the nucleus of several civilisations around the world. He also said that Francis Bacon wrote Shakespeare's plays.

GETTY IMAGES XI, TOPFOTO XI

## WHAT WAS THE LEGEND OF ATLANTIS BASED ON?



We would love to say that the tale of the legendary island lost to the sea was based on real evidence, dredged from the ocean floor or still preserved underwater. But there's just no proof that Atlantis existed, until Aquaman appears and proves us wrong.

The origins of the legend is in the writings of one of history's pioneering philosophers: Plato. Across two dialogues, *Timeaus* and *Critias*, written in the mid-4th century BC, the Athenian brainbox described a powerful, wealthy and scientifically advanced civilisation on an island in the Atlantic Ocean "outside the Pillars of Hercules", which was the entrance to the Strait of Gibraltar.

Atlantis supposedly existed 9,000 years before Plato and was larger than Libya and

Asia Minor combined. Far from the utopia it is often depicted as today, Atlantis was said to be the military powerhouse of the region – that is, until its people incurred the wrath of the gods, who sent the island to the bottom of the sea over a single day and night.

Plato's writings have been held to be an allegorical invention serving as a warning against being impious, greedy and unlawful – and against standing up to the might of his home state of Athens. But that didn't stop the theories insisting Atlantis was real from proliferating. It has been suggested the island belonged to the Minoan civilisation (centred on Crete), or was Mayan or Aztec, or was lost to the Bermuda Triangle, or continues to lie under the ice of Antarctica.

### LEGENDARY BRAIN

Plato poured a great deal of thought into Atlantis – but how much of it was unfettered imagination?



**ONE MAN'S JUNK...**  
The animals Berlanga dismissed as being silly were a vital inspiration to Darwin



## Who discovered the Galápagos Islands?

Although one theory suggests the Incas got there first – which would have really been something as they weren't a seafaring people – the discovery of the Galápagos Islands is credited to a Spanish bishop. Tomás de Berlanga, Bishop of Panama, spotted the islands when his ship drifted off course in the Pacific on the way to Peru. The crew made landfall on 10 March 1535, but as the islands had no fresh water and

were populated by, as Tomás eloquently put it, animals and birds “so silly they did not know how to flee”, they were deemed “worthless”.

Still, the archipelago came to be used by voyagers, pirates and whale hunters. But it was when Charles Darwin went there in 1835 – three centuries after Tomás – that they changed the course of natural history forever.

## Why did Georgians powder their faces?

Wealthy Georgians put a lot of time, effort and suffering into their looks. An unforgivable fashion faux pas was tanned skin, as it suggested they had been working in the fields like a peasant. As well as the big hair, porcelain-white skin was a must.

To get the right shade of pale, the rich daubed creams and powders all over their faces, with no reason to care that these contained horse manure, vinegar and – most significantly – lead. Red lips and cheeks completed the style, achieved with mercury and more lead, while ‘mouches’, – patches of black velvet, silk or satin, from the French for ‘flies’ – came in handy to cover the blemishes of lead-ravaged skin.

Unsurprisingly, such cosmetics led to health problems, from skin damage to digestive disorders, and even death. The poor had the right idea. In trying to imitate the wealthy, they just used flour.



### DID YOU KNOW?

#### NEEDED LIKE A MOLE ON THE HEAD

Ali ibn Isa al-Kahhal, esteemed doctor of the medieval Muslim world, made significant advances when it came to eye problems, but he also suggested that the best way to cure a migraine was to tie a dead mole to the head.

**DEATHLY PALE**  
Wealthy Georgians had little idea they were chancing their health in the name of fashion

## WHEN DID BRITISH SOLDIERS STOP WEARING RED COATS?



**LIKE A RED FLAG**  
Fear inducing? Perhaps. Stealthy? Not a chance

Those who have seen the Grenadier Guards outside Buckingham Palace know that the British Army hasn't entirely stopped wearing red, but camouflage has obviously become far preferable in combat than the ‘look-at-me’ scarlet.

Before the Boer Wars, the red coats were an icon of the British around the world. At a time of pitched battles – all long lines of soldiers, smoke and chaos – distinctly coloured uniforms were a way of telling

friend from foe. But when the nature of war changed in the 19th century, there was a greater need to protect individual troops by making them less-obvious targets.

It is said the British last fought in red at the Battle of Gennis in Sudan in 1885 – and that was more for show as it intended to send a message that the British were coming. Khaki, which was already worn as standard in India, became the official service dress in 1902, although red tunics remained useful for ceremonial duties.



**BEAUTIFUL GAME,  
UGLY SCENES**  
Referee Ken Aston  
struggles to enforce order



## WHERE WAS THE FIRST SHOPPING MALL?

**Target** In Rome, and around two millennia before anyone would have to worry about the threat of online shopping. The huge, multi-levelled building, thought to have been built by Apollodorus of Damascus close to the Colosseum, housed a covered market with around 150 shops, offices and a residential apartment block behind its semi-circular façade.

The shop fronts on the ground floor would have been a feast of colours and smells, selling wine, fruits, vegetables, oils and spices. This prototype shopping mall became known as Trajan's Market, after the emperor who commissioned its construction in the first decade of the first century AD. It still exists, but as a museum rather than a cathedral of consumerism.

**TRAJAN'S TRIUMPH**  
This 'mall' was one of Trajan's many civic projects to improve living standards for everyday Romans



**50,000**

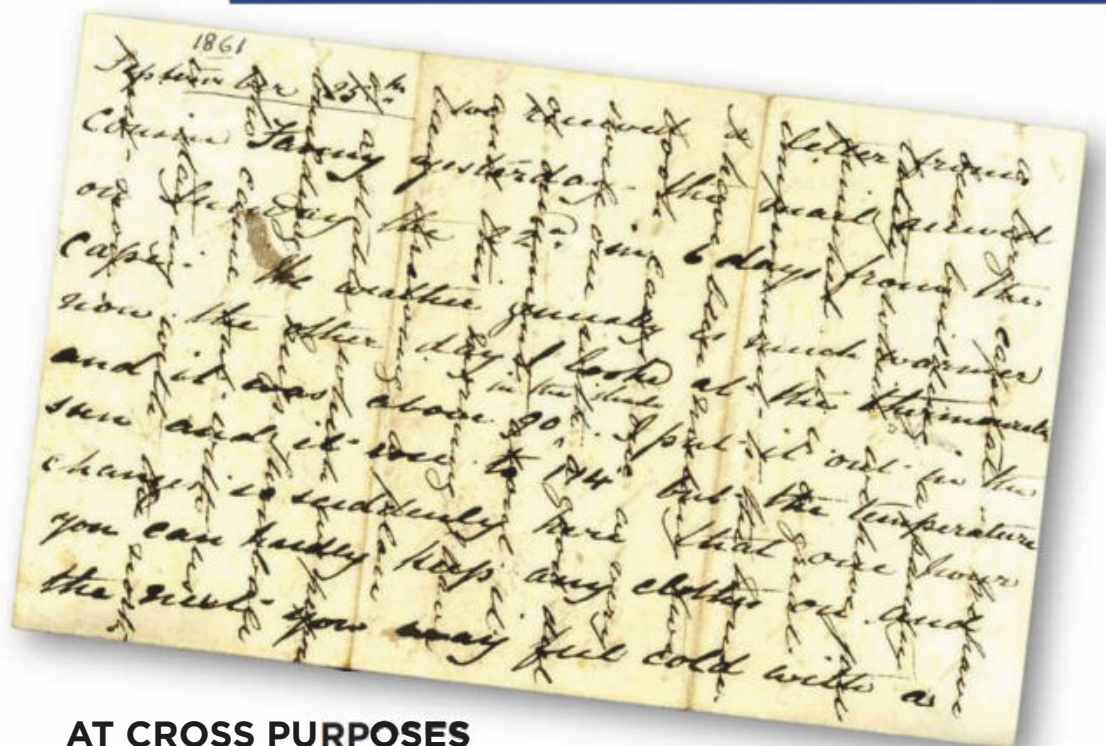
The number of miles of stone-paved roads built by the Romans, allowing their soldiers to march across the empire. There were 29 military highways radiating from Rome alone.

## HOW WERE LETTERS SENT BEFORE STAMPS?

**Target** Thanks to social reformer Rowland Hill, who proposed changes to the British postal system, the world's first stamp – the Penny Black – was introduced on 6 May 1840. He stamped out (if you will) the unreliable, inconsistent and expensive status quo, which was to simply pop your letter into the post and hope for the best.

The old system involved a plethora of charges, depending on the destination and method of transport, and how much paper was used. That meant people tended to make the most of every scrap of the page to cut costs, leading to a trend of 'cross writing': a letter would be written as normal from left to right, but then the page would be turned 90 degrees so words could be added up and down.

Another quirk was that the postage was paid for by the recipient, not the sender, which meant an innumerable number of letters went undelivered when people refused to cough up. The stamp changed all that, with postage costing a penny for the sender. And soon, the British were being encouraged to put holes in their front doors to make delivery even easier.



### AT CROSS PURPOSES

At a glance it might resemble a puzzle, but to the trained Victorian eye this was a perfectly legible missive

## What does football owe to the Battle of Santiago?

**Target** Chile once won a bloody and brutal victory over a force from Italy, but this was no wartime clash. It was a football match. BBC presenter David Coleman described the 1962 FIFA World Cup group-stage fixture as "The most stupid, appalling, disgusting and disgraceful exhibition of football possibly in the history of the game."

Tensions ran high before kick-off, thanks to the Italian press. They described tournament hosts Chile as "proudly miserable and backwards", the country as a place where "the phones don't work and taxis are as rare as faithful husbands" and the citizens as being defined by "malnutrition, illiteracy, alcoholism and poverty".

There had already been violent, almost lawless, matches at this World Cup, but nothing like when Chile and Italy ran onto the field. The first foul came after 12 seconds, and that was merely the start. The match was an endless stream of players kicking each other. There were thrown punches, rugby tackles and a broken nose. Two Italians were sent off, and armed police were called on to break things up. In between the mayhem, Chile scored twice.

It seems the English referee who struggled admirably with this farce, Ken Aston, was inspired that day, as he went on to develop the yellow and red cards that now police the beautiful game. So, at least some good came from the Battle of Santiago.





**COUNT 'EM AND WEEP**  
In medieval times, a full-fingered longbowman was truly someone to fear

## Did English archers really **flick the Vs**?

As the story goes, English archers in the Hundred Years' War gave their French foes the two-fingered salute to prove they had all they needed to draw their longbows. Yet with no evidence, this seems to be a matter of being too good a story to be true. And it doesn't quite add up, as bowmen needed three fingers to use the Agincourt-winning weapon.

Of course, sticking up two fingers has not always been a rude gesture, but a sign of peace or, during World War II, victory. Churchill would 'flick the Vs' at his own soldiers and press – in a good way.

**47**

The number of days in 1961 that the Museum of Modern Art in New York accidentally hung a Matisse painting, 'Le Bateau', upside down with no one noticing.

**ON HIS LAST LEG**  
Only a thigh bone remains in the Conqueror's tomb in the Abbey of Saint-Etienne in Caen



## HOW WERE GEISHA CHOSEN?

In feudal Japan, geishas were masters of the ancient arts – their very name means 'art person'. Their job was to entertain, through means such as singing, dancing, playing instruments and conversation, and they were also proficient in flower arranging, tea ceremonies and calligraphy.

Dressed in kimonos, wearing platform shoes and with painted faces, a geisha was the ultimate seductress. Admittedly, they did work in Japan's pleasure quarters and the line between geisha and courtesan wasn't always clearly defined, but they were forbidden by law to offer sex, as this would steal business. In fact, the first geishas were actually men.

The first woman to call herself a geisha was an entertainer from Fukagawa named Kikuya in the mid-18th century, and it became a respected and skilled profession. Families handed over their daughters to geisha houses so they could be trained in the arts. Feeding, sheltering and clothing them was an expensive investment, so once they were geishas, they began paying off their debts.

### BECOMING GEISHA

Geishas undergo a five-year training period, during which they are known as maiko



## What happened to **William the Conqueror's** body?

Anyone expecting the final farewell of William I, the victor at Hastings and first Norman King of England, to have been all respect and reverence may be disappointed. He died on 9 September 1087, more than 20 years after taking the throne, while on campaign in France – possibly after rupturing his organs when his horse threw him against the rock-hard pommel of his saddle.

That was only the beginning. William's body was dumped unceremoniously on the floor as

his belongings were looted; then a fire in Caen meant only a handful of people attended the funeral. Perhaps that was for the best, as the proceedings were further marred by a heckler complaining of his family land having been seized.

Then came the Conqueror's final humiliation. As priests stuffed the rather rotund ruler into the stone coffin, his "swollen bowels burst", sending out a stench so odorous that it could not be masked by frankincense. At least William has rested in peace ever since – not including the several times his grave was disturbed and his bones scattered.



# WHEN DID CONSTANTINOPLE BECOME ISTANBUL?



Although Istanbul became the sole official name for the Republic of Turkey's major metropolis in 1930, the name had already been used as an alternative to Constantinople for centuries. The city – capital of the Byzantine and Ottoman Empires – long stood apart as a centre of culture, influence and

sophistication. It had been known as Byzantium, Augusta Antonina and New Rome before Emperor Constantine named it after himself in AD 330. Locals would use a phrase derived from the Greek for “to the city” to refer to Constantinople simply as “the city”, a suitable shorthand for a place of such standing in the world.

**HEART OF EMPIRES**  
Istanbul holds a strategic position between Europe and Asia



# HOW WAS LAIKA THE DOG CHOSEN?



On 3 November 1957, Laika the dog became the first living creature in Earth's orbit when she was launched on Sputnik 2. That's a long way from being a stray on the streets of Moscow. Soviet scientists chose the little, roughly three-year-old mongrel in the belief that strays were tougher, having adapted to hunger and cold. A female was also preferred as they were said to have a calmer temperament than males.

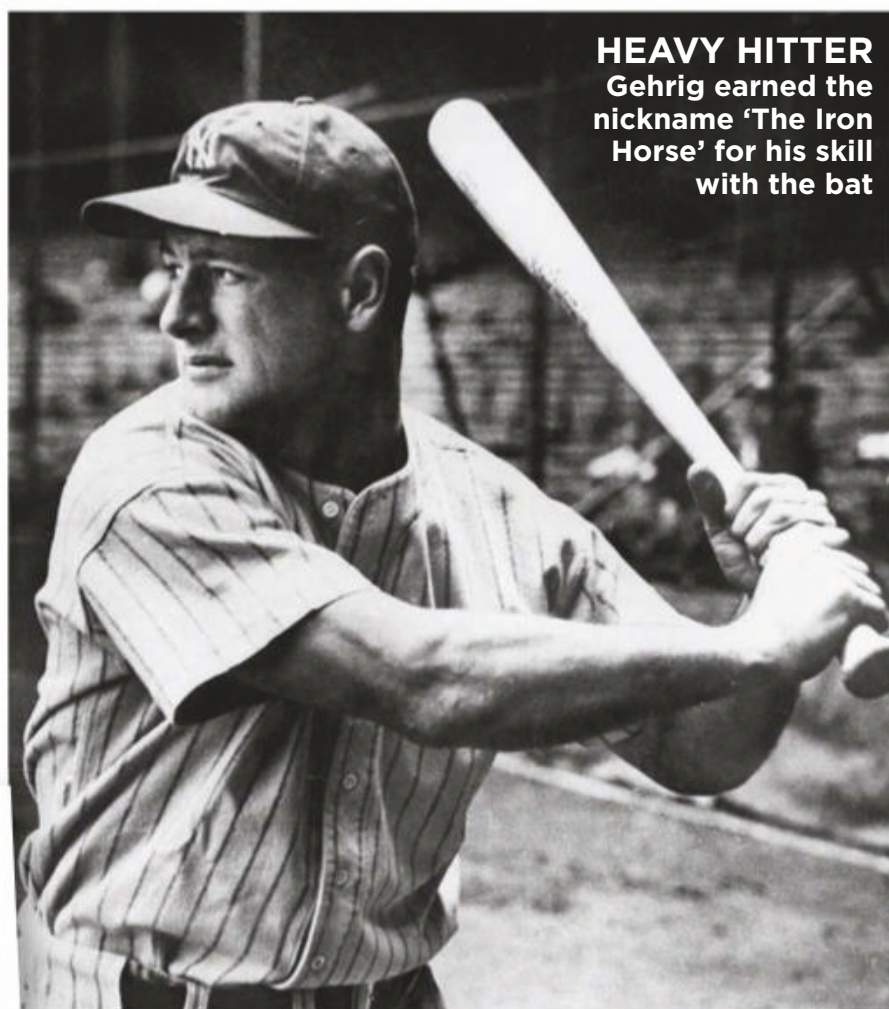
Laika – dubbed Muttink in the American press – underwent training in confined spaces, eating space-proof jellied food, and spinning in a centrifuge before being selected over the two other canine candidates, Albina and Mushka. This decision ensured her name, – which means barker – would go down in history, but sadly sealed her fate too. She was never intended to live through the spaceflight, and died a matter of hours after lift-off from heat and stress.

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
**FLY LIKE AN EAGLE?**  
In 1507, Italian alchemist John Damian de Falcuis attempted to fly from Stirling Castle with self-made wings. When he plummeted to the ground and broke his leg, he blamed the use of some hen feathers in his wings instead of pure eagle.

**NO WAY BACK**  
Laika's mission was always intended as a one-way trip



**HEAVY HITTER**  
Gehrig earned the nickname 'The Iron Horse' for his skill with the bat



# What is Lou Gehrig's disease?



Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) is a degenerative and still-incurable neuromuscular disease and holds special significance in the world of baseball.

Lou Gehrig played 2,130 consecutive games for the New York Yankees between 1925 and 1939, smashing home runs and records, but his diagnosis of ALS – on his 36th birthday – forced him to retire. That a superstar of Gehrig's standing was struck down by a condition little known at the time ensured it instantly earned another name: Lou Gehrig's disease.

He was immediately entered into the baseball Hall of Fame and the Yankees held an appreciation day in his honour, at which he gave a speech that has echoed throughout sporting history. In front of a packed stadium, two years before his death, the quiet, unassuming yet legendary player declared: “Today, I consider myself the luckiest man on the face of the Earth.”



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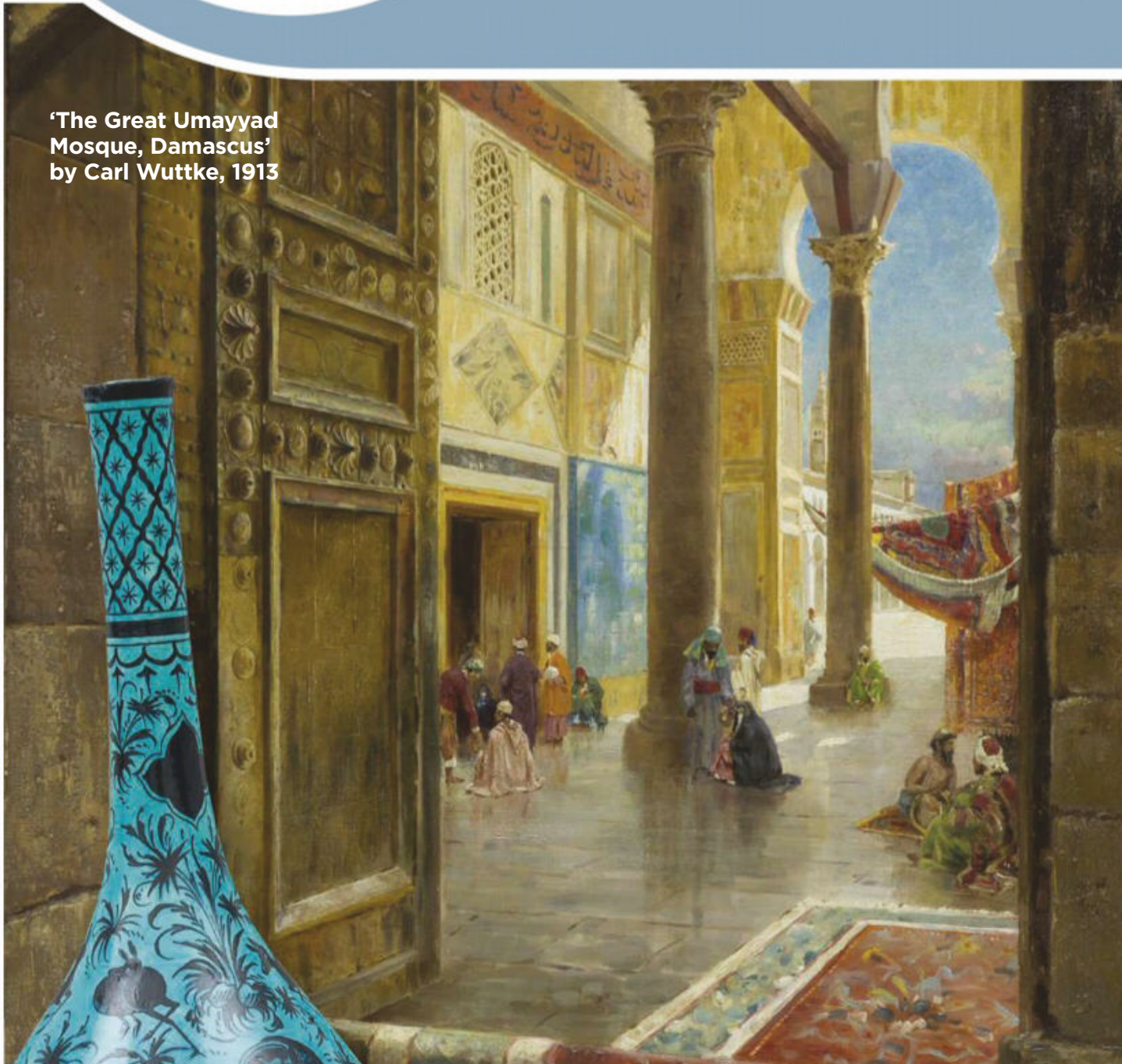




# ON OUR RADAR

A guide to what's happening in  
the world of history over  
the coming weeks

'The Great Umayyad  
Mosque, Damascus'  
by Carl Wuttke, 1913



## EXHIBITION

### Inspired by the East

British Museum, London, 10 October 2019  
to 26 January 2020  
[www.britishmuseum.org/whats\\_on/  
exhibitions/east.aspx](http://www.britishmuseum.org/whats_on/exhibitions/east.aspx)

For centuries, the Western world has had a fascination with the East, an influence that can be seen across the world of art as well as in jewellery, ceramics and clothing. This exhibition, subtitled 'How the Islamic world influenced the Western art', will also take a closer look at the Orientalism movement, and how the Middle East and North Africa have been continuously represented as mysterious and exotic – blurring the lines between fantasy and reality.

Items on display  
include Persian-  
style bottles and a  
portrait medal of  
Muhammad Shah  
Qajar, a 19th-  
century king of Iran



## WHAT'S ON

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## TV & RADIO

The hottest new dramas  
and documentaries...p86



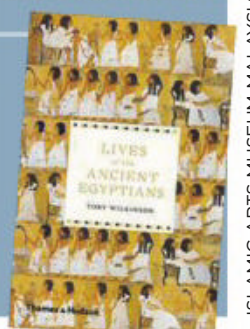
## BRITAIN'S TREASURES

Bamburgh Castle..... p88



## BOOK REVIEWS

Our look at  
the best new  
releases....p90



ISLAMIC ARTS MUSEUM MALAYSIA X3, ALAMY X1, NATIONAL MUSEUMS SCOTLAND X1, RED PLANET/ITV X1



## EVENT

# Spooky Castle

Bolsover Castle, Derbyshire, 26 October to 3 November,  
[www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/whats-on/bolsover-spooky-castle-26-october-2019](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/whats-on/bolsover-spooky-castle-26-october-2019)

Prepare for a thrill this half-term as Bolsover Castle gets taken over by some scary guests. The whole castle will be getting into the Halloween spirit, with creepy crafts and frightening fancy dress encouraged! Be on your guard, though, Bolsover has been voted English Heritage's spookiest property – staff have reported unexplained screams, muffled voices and slamming doors while working there.

►► *Read our Top 10 next month to discover some more haunted locations*









## EXHIBITION

# William Blake

Tate Britain, London, 11 September to 2 February 2020,  
[www.tate.org.uk/whats-on/tate-britain/exhibition/william-blake-artist](http://www.tate.org.uk/whats-on/tate-britain/exhibition/william-blake-artist)

While William Blake is most well-known for his poetry, he was also a prolific painter and created his own printing process. Starting out his artistic career as an engraver, he would illustrate poetry and novels. He then began illustrating his own poetry with a method he called illuminated printing – a type of relief etching. Tate Britain will be exhibiting more than 300 of Blake's original works as well as recreating the room where he displayed his artwork in 1809.



ABOVE: 'Capaneus the Blasphemer', 1824-27

LEFT: 'Europe' Plate i: Frontispiece, 'The Ancient of Days', 1827

BELOW: 'Portrait of William Blake', 1802 – thought to be his only self-portrait







Suzannah Lipscomb will be talking women, sex and power in the 16th century

## FESTIVAL

### BBC History Magazine's History Weekend: Chester

Chester, 25-27 October, [www.historyextra.com/events](http://www.historyextra.com/events)

The first of *BBC History Magazine's History Weekends* arrives in Chester with a packed line-up. Dan Jones will be exploring the Crusaders, while Tracy Borman will be discussing the rise of the Stuart dynasty. Other speakers include Chris Naunton, Hallie Rubenhold and Alison Weir. Walking tours, book signings and free fringe sessions will also be on offer. Save 10% on tickets at <https://bbchistory.seetickets.com/go/save10>

## EVENT

### Medieval Weekend

Bolton Castle, Lancashire, 5-6 October, [www.boltoncastle.co.uk/tc-events/medieval-events-july-27th-28th-2](http://www.boltoncastle.co.uk/tc-events/medieval-events-july-27th-28th-2)

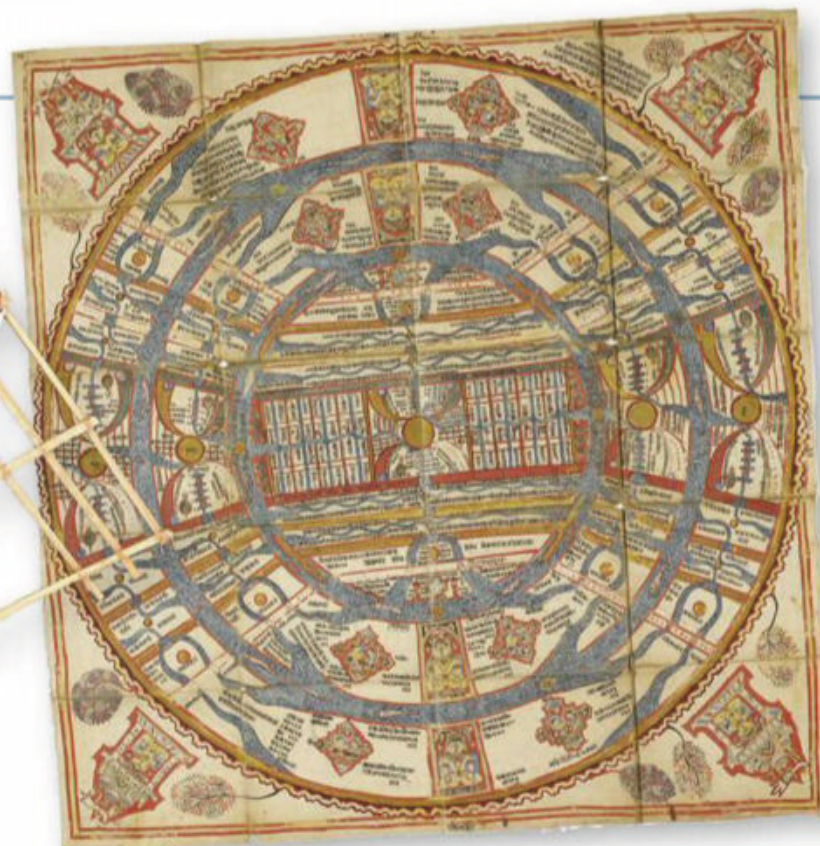
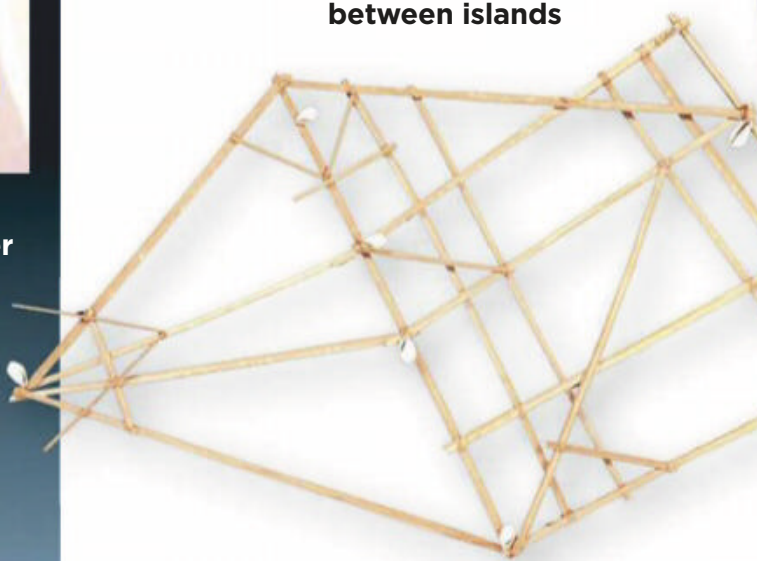
The Wars of the Roses has come to Bolton Castle and though the bulk of its forces have gone to fight, a small garrison remains to defend the castle. The kitchens will be churning out feasts, and visitors can handle authentic weapons, and enjoy a tour around this 14th-century stronghold.



Get up close to a knight fantastic

RIGHT: An ancient Indian map of the universe

BELOW: Pacific Islanders used 'stick charts' to navigate between islands



## EXHIBITION

### Talking Maps

Bodleian Library, Oxford, until 8 March 2020, [www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/whatson/whats-on/upcoming-events/2019/july/talking-maps](http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/whatson/whats-on/upcoming-events/2019/july/talking-maps)

From planning battle strategy to trips abroad, humanity has used maps as tools for centuries. The Bodleian Library has more than 1.5 million in its collection and some of its best examples will be on display in this exhibition – combining some fascinating examples of ancient, medieval, modern and fictional cartography. From the earliest map showing a recognisable Britain, to the fictional worlds created by CS Lewis and JRR Tolkien – explore how maps help us understand the world and our place in it.

## EXHIBITION

### Wild and Majestic: Romantic Visions of Scotland

National Museum of Scotland, Edinburgh, until 10 November, [www.nms.ac.uk/exhibitions-events/exhibitions/national-museum-of-scotland/wild-and-majestic](http://www.nms.ac.uk/exhibitions-events/exhibitions/national-museum-of-scotland/wild-and-majestic)

During the 18th and 19th centuries, an image of Scotland was created, that still persists today. From tartan and heroic battles to breathtaking landscapes, these ideas were used to represent Scotland across the globe. The writings of Walter Scott and other Romantics also provided inspiration and Queen Victoria herself had a special place in her heart for the Highlands, creating a private royal residence at Balmoral. Prince Albert also enjoyed his time spent there as the scenery reminded him of his childhood home in Germany.



'Scene in the Highlands with portraits of the Duchess of Bedford, Duke of Gordon and Lord Alexander Russell' by Sir Edwin Landseer, c1825-8

## ▶ ALSO LOOK OUT FOR

- ▶ **Culture Under Attack** – Explore how war has had an impact on culture over the past century. Imperial War Museum London, until 5 January 2020, [bit.ly/2YYI6Ej](http://bit.ly/2YYI6Ej)
- ▶ **1066 Battle of Hastings** – Watch a dramatic re-enactment of the battle that changed England forever. Battle Abbey, East Sussex, 12-13 October, [bit.ly/31BE16T](http://bit.ly/31BE16T)



# TV AND RADIO

The hottest documentaries, podcasts and period dramas

**ONE  
TO  
WATCH**



*World On Fire* follows the first year of World War II through the intertwining fates of ordinary people

## ORDINARY LIVES, EXTRAORDINARY EVENTS

# World On Fire

BBC One, scheduled for September

Most people don't see the big picture when they're caught up in conflict, but are buffeted along by what's happening around them. Yet as new drama *World On Fire* sets out to show, these individual stories, when knitted together, can convey the grand sweep of history.

Scripted by Peter Bowker (*Desperate Romantics*), *World On Fire* tells the story of the first year of World War II, from the German invasion of Poland through to the Battle of Britain. It shows the war from an international perspective, so

that we see scenes from Warsaw, the home front in Manchester and a chaotic France as the British Expeditionary Force retreats towards Dunkirk – and Berlin too, where the Rossler family try to shield their disabled daughter from the Nazis. The people in these stories, it gradually becomes clear, are linked.

A strong cast includes Academy Award winner Helen Hunt, who plays a war correspondent, Lesley Manville and Sean Bean. Producers Mammoth Screen hope the drama will eventually tell the story of the whole war.



**Jonah Hauer-King as Harry Chase, "a young English translator in Warsaw caught up in negotiations with the Nazis"**





**Cohen vanished after swindling millions**

## THE HIGH LIFE

### Arena: The \$50 Million Art Swindle

BBC Two, scheduled for September

From the outside, Michel Cohen lived a fabulous life. In the 1990s, he was a successful art dealer, selling paintings by Picasso, Monet and Chagall to some of the most wealthy people in America. But Cohen, having speculated on the stock market, was broke – and tried to cover his losses by swindling millions of dollars from the art establishment.

In 2003, after being located by Interpol whilst on the run in Brazil, Cohen escaped from a Rio jail. He's not been heard from since – until filmmaker Vanessa Engle tracked him down for this documentary.

## SCHOOL SCANDAL?

### Archive On 4: Panorama Broke My School

BBC Radio 4, scheduled for Saturday 21 September

In 1977, *Panorama* arrived at Faraday High in East Acton, London, to record a fly-on-the-wall film on day-to-day life in a multicultural comprehensive. In the resulting film, *The Best Days?*, there seemed to be little discipline and teachers appeared to be overwhelmed.

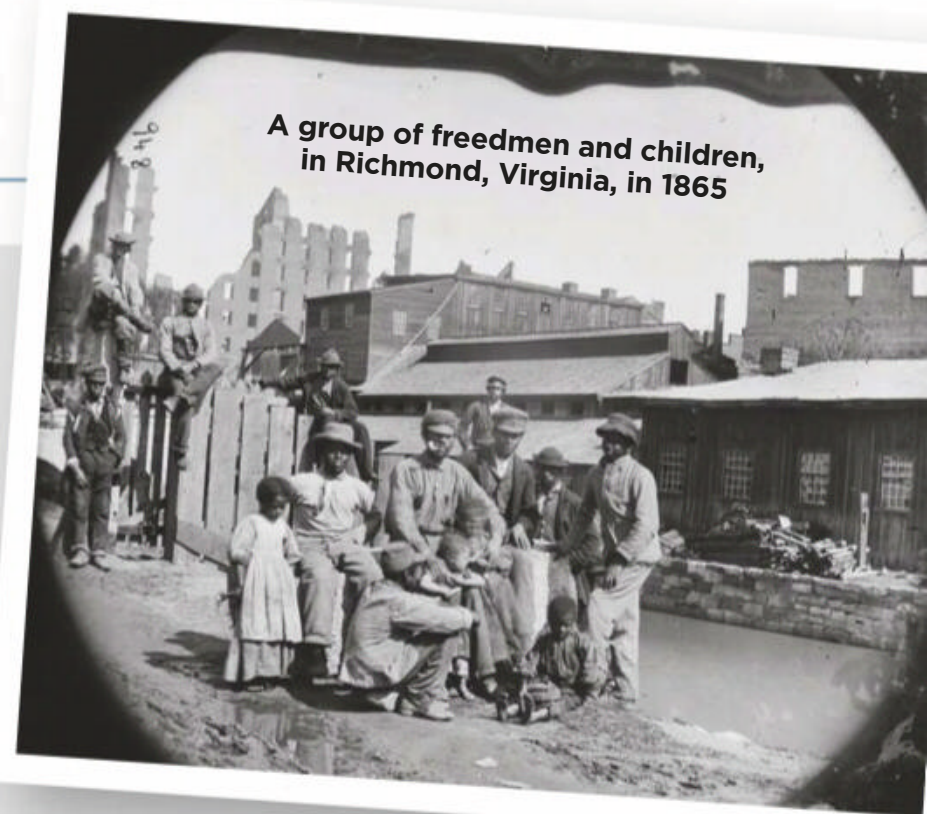
Shabnam Grewal was a part of a class that featured extensively in the documentary. She looks at how the controversy that followed transmission affected the school, and explores whether it had a role in ushering in a more conservative approach to schooling.

## YEARS OF HOPE

### Reconstruction: America After The Civil War

PBS America, scheduled for Monday 9 September

In the dozen years that followed the end of the American Civil War in 1865, emancipated African-Americans enjoyed freedoms previously denied them. It was, noted civil rights activist WEB DuBois (1868-1963), a “brief moment in the Sun” before racist forces in the South began to reassert control through segregation and hated Jim Crow laws. In documentaries shown over four successive evenings, Henry Louis Gates Jr looks back at how and why this happened.



## BONNETS AND BUSINESS

### Sanditon

ITV, scheduled for September

In January 1817, Jane Austen began work on a new novel, but died before she could finish the project. The 11 chapters she left behind, first published in 1925, form the basis of this new drama from Andrew Davies (*War & Peace*, *Les Misérables*). Rose Williams leads the cast as Charlotte Heywood, a typically unconventional Austen hero, who goes to stay in the coastal community of Sanditon. Expect a story that touches on class, privilege and the money to be made from property development.



Theo James, Rose Williams Crystal Clarke, Anne Reid and Kris Marshall star in *Sanditon*



Sam Neill retraces the route taken by Captain James Cook

## DEEP WATERS

### Captain Cook's Pacific With Sam Neill

History, scheduled for Sunday 29 September

When Captain James Cook and the crew of HMS *Endeavour* set out from Plymouth for the Pacific in August 1768, theirs was a voyage into waters still largely unexplored by Europeans. Some 250 years later, actor Sam Neill (*Jurassic Park*, *Peaky Blinders*) journeys in Cook's wake. Was Cook's voyage a prelude to imperialist expansion? Or should we see him as an enlightened explorer? These are questions an island-hopping Neill puts to the descendants of those Cook encountered.

## ▶ ALSO LOOK OUT FOR

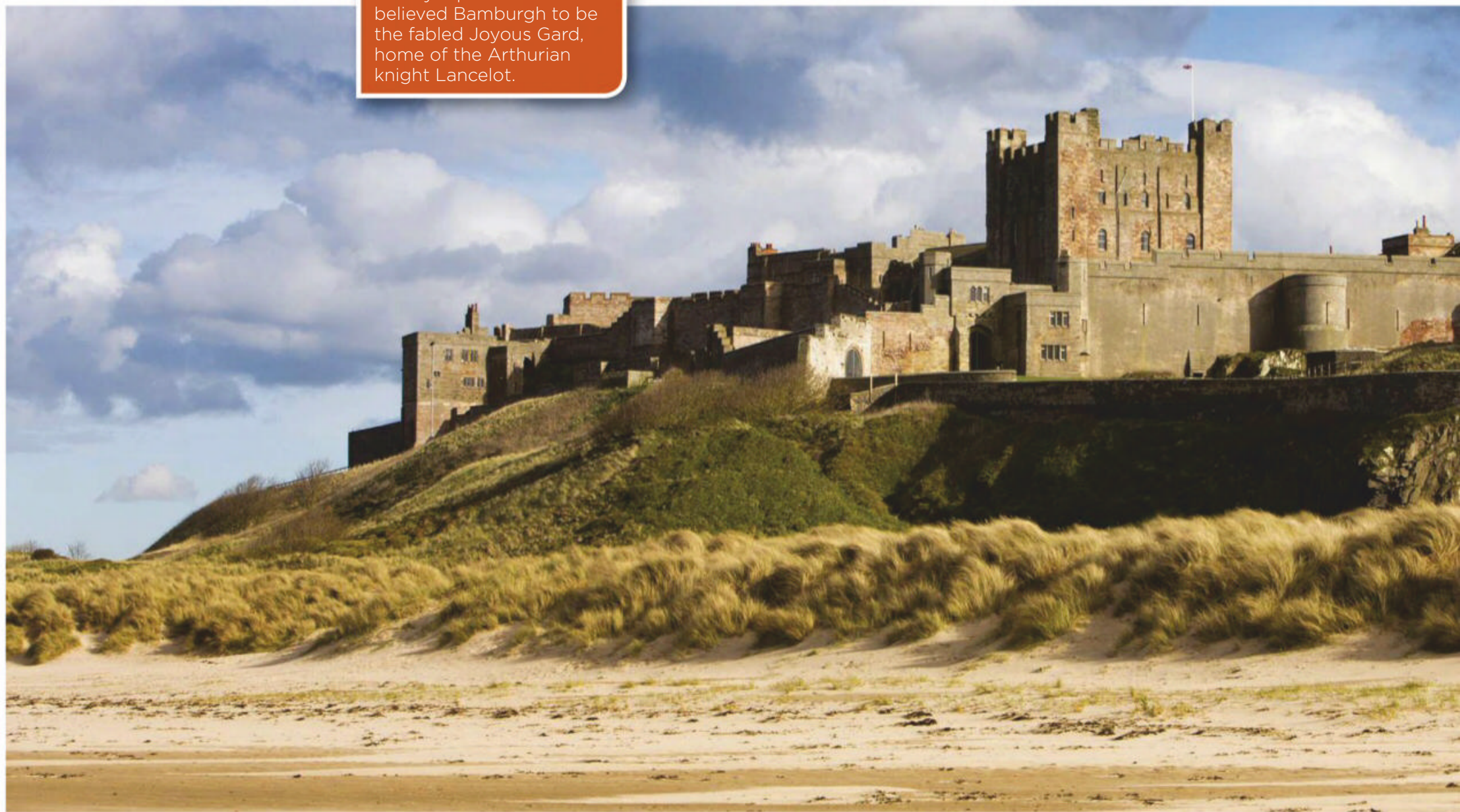
▶ *In Our Time* (BBC Radio 4, Thursday 19 September) returns with more brisk, high-brow chat, with a show on Napoleon's retreat from Moscow.

▶ *Underground Worlds* (Yesterday, September) explores such spaces as the Catacombs of Paris and the many tunnels built under Berlin during the Cold War era.



**TOWER OF JOY**

Medieval writer Thomas Malory reports that some believed Bamburgh to be the fabled Joyous Gard, home of the Arthurian knight Lancelot.



## BRITAIN'S TREASURES...

# BAMBURGH CASTLE Northumberland

The royal seat of Anglo-Saxon kings, Bamburgh's chequered past has seen it besieged, destroyed and rebuilt several times over

**GETTING THERE**

Bamburgh Castle is 53 miles north of Newcastle and easily accessible from the A1. Take the B1342 towards Bamburgh. Regular buses run from Berwick-upon-Tweed.

**OPENING TIMES AND PRICES**

Open everyday from 10am to 5pm until 3 November, weekends only between 4 November and 7 February, 11am-4.30pm. Adults £11.25, children £5.50.

**FIND OUT MORE**

[www.bamburghcastle.com](http://www.bamburghcastle.com)

**B**amburgh Castle was once one of the most important strongholds in all of England. Sitting on an outcrop towering 150ft above the North Sea, it proved the ideal location for a fortress, was home to kings and the site of several vicious sieges.

It's believed that Bamburgh was home to a Celtic British tribe before its recorded history began. In AD 547, it became the capital of the kingdom of Bernicia, which spanned southeast Scotland and northeast England.

Ida the Flamebearer, the first king of Bernicia, laid the timbers of the wooden stockade, creating the original stronghold at Bamburgh, known at the time

as Din Guayrði. After Ida's death, the castle passed to his grandson, Æthelfrith, famed both for his bloodthirstiness and because he won a second crown, that of the neighbouring kingdom of Deira. Later they would be merged into one, the more famous kingdom of Northumbria.

Æthelfrith gifted Din Guayrði to his second wife, Bebbha, and it was renamed Bebbanburgh in her honour – this is thought to be where the modern name of Bamburgh comes from. Fans of historical fiction may also recognise the name Bebbanburgh from Bernard Cornwell's *The Saxon Stories*: it serves as the ancestral home of protagonist Uthred, son of Uthred.

Æthelfrith was killed in battle in AD 616 and – thanks to a hefty dose of politicking – his thrones passed to Edwin, heir of a previous Deiran king, whilst his own sons were sent into exile.

This wasn't to be the end of Æthelfrith's line. Edwin lost both kingdoms in AD 633 to Cadwallon ap Cadfan, the king of Gynwedd. By all accounts a tyrant, he was killed a year later when Æthelfrith's second son, Oswald, made a heroic return at the head of a small host. It was Oswald who founded Lindisfarne Priory, which would suffer the first recorded Viking raid on Britain in AD 793.



Bamburgh is perhaps most famously the court of King Oswald of Northumbria – later St Oswald – who founded the priory at Lindisfarne



## WHAT TO LOOK FOR...



### 1 THE MUSEUM

Originally built as the laundry for William Armstrong's convalescent home, the museum is filled with items from his engineering career.



### 2 THE NEVILLE TOWER

Named for the Earl of Warwick, who was responsible for the castle's fall in 1464, this tower has been completely rebuilt.



### 3 THE KING'S HALL

Now a grand Victorian masterpiece, the hall is built on the site of the medieval Great Hall. The beam ceiling is made of Thai teak.



### 4 ST OSWALD'S GATE

Believed to have existed since the 8th century, the gate was the original entrance to the castle and protected its access to the natural harbour.



### 5 THE KEEP

The keep's walls are 11 feet thick at the front. Today it houses the armoury; the weapons within still retain their scars from battle.



### 6 THE MEDIEVAL KITCHEN

Once used to prepare royal banquets, the kitchens were later used as a charitable school to teach the local children.

## “Bamburgh became a vital outpost along the Scottish border in the Norman era”

Bamburgh survived until AD 993, when it was reduced to a ruin in another Viking raid. It remained that way until the time of William the Conqueror, who built a Norman castle on the site as a base for invasions into Scotland.

By 1086, the castle was in the hands of Robert de Mowbray, Earl of Northumbria. After the Conqueror died in 1087, it became apparent that de Mowbray had no love for his new king, William Rufus, and in 1095 the earl rose in rebellion.


Rufus besieged Bamburgh, building a temporary wooden siege castle so close that opposing soldiers could shout abuse at each other. For reasons unknown,

Mowbray tried to escape via a secret tunnel but was captured. His wife eventually forfeited the castle to the Crown.

Bamburgh became a vital outpost along the Scottish border and by 1164, its great keep had been built, making it all but impenetrable against attack. Many monarchs visited the castle in the succeeding centuries. One, David II of Scotland, was kept prisoner there.

During the Wars of the Roses, it was a residence of Henry VI. It was surrounded in 1464 by Richard Neville, Earl of Warwick and, by the end of the nine-month siege, had earned the dubious honour of being the first castle in England to fall to artillery. The

castle remained a royal possession until 1610, when James VI and I gifted it to Claudius Forster, its last royal keeper. It was most recently bought by industrialist William Armstrong in 1894, and it remains in his family to this day.

Since entering private ownership Bamburgh has served myriad roles, including a school, a hospital for the poor and a coastguard station; in 1786 it witnessed the launch of Britain's first lifeboat. Excavations in the 1960s and 70s revealed hidden treasures: a 7th-century gold plaque with a mysterious creature on it – dubbed the Bamburgh Beast, and adopted as the castle's motif – and an Anglo-Saxon sword believed to be the only one of its kind ever found. 

## WHY NOT VISIT...

Other historical sites found across northern England

### ALNWICK CASTLE

A must-see for *Harry Potter* fans, this 11th-century castle was used for many of the outdoor shots of Hogwarts in the movie series. [www.alnwickcastle.com](http://www.alnwickcastle.com)

### THE RNLI GRACE DARLING MUSEUM

Located in Bamburgh village, this museum is dedicated to Grace Darling, a lighthouse keeper's daughter who rescued survivors of a shipwreck in 1838. <https://rnli.org/find-my-nearest/museums/grace-darling-museum>

### LINDISFARNE

Hailed as the cradle of Christianity in England, Lindisfarne fell victim to a vicious Viking raid in AD 793.

[www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/lindisfarne-priory](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/lindisfarne-priory)



# BOOKS

## This month's best historical reads



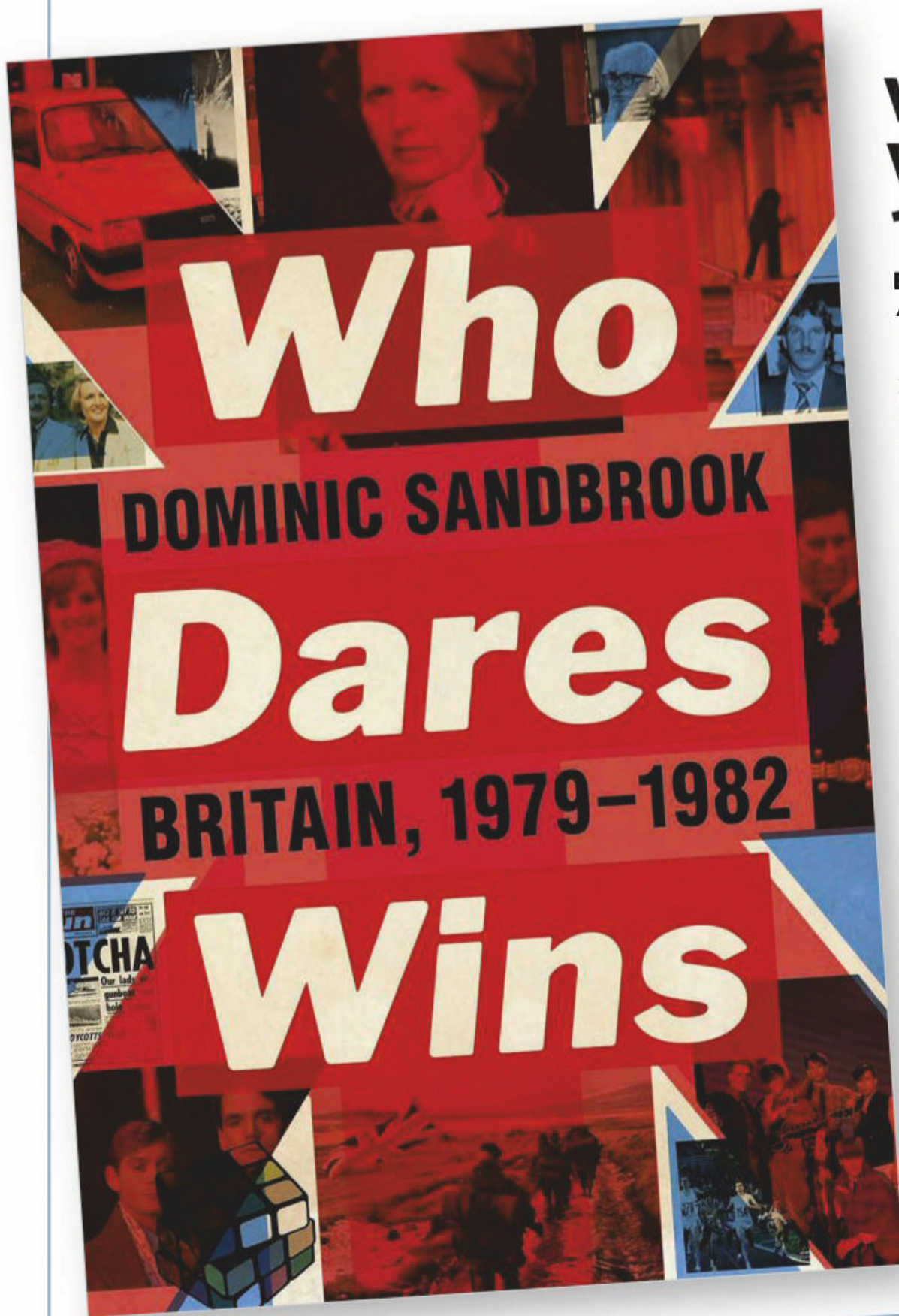
**BOOK  
OF THE  
MONTH**

# Who Dares Wins: Britain, 1979-1982

**By Dominic Sandbrook**

Allen Lane, £30, hardback, 928 pages

Having chronicled Britain's story from 1956 to 1979, historian Dominic Sandbrook here turns his attention to a pivotal period: the dawn of the 1980s and the rise of Margaret Thatcher. Britain's first female prime minister is obviously a defining presence, but Sandbrook is just as eager to sketch the ways in which the cultural and economic changes often had their origins elsewhere in society. Mixing politics with pop music and class rivalries with international conflict, this is a dynamic exploration of an era whose events still have much to tell us about the world of 2019.



**“This is a dynamic exploration mixing politics with pop music and class rivalries with international conflict”**







Margaret Thatcher takes office in May 1979, the inaugural step towards a complex legacy



Crowds cheer as HMS *Invincible* returns to Portsmouth following the Falklands War

## MEET THE AUTHOR

Historian, author and presenter **Dominic Sandbrook** believes that Britain was much more divided in the early Thatcher years than it is today

**Your book covers the years from 1979 to 1982. How much would a visitor from 2019 recognise the Britain of this period?**

To younger time-travellers, Britain in 1979 would seem a strange place indeed. It was more insular, more conservative and more cohesive, but also smokier, gloomier and less colourful. There were virtually no computers, far fewer phones, fewer cars, fewer foreign holidays and fewer foreign accents. People drank less wine and more tea. The lunchtime sandwich was a relative novelty. There were only three TV channels. Trade union leaders dominated the headlines; inflation was heading towards 20 per cent; millions were unemployed. And although Britain had its first woman prime minister, women could be – and were – sacked for wearing trousers.

**To what extent is the period defined by its prime minister, Margaret Thatcher?**

Thatcher inevitably dominates any account of the period, partly because she was the boss, but also because she was such an extraordinary character, at once charismatic, determined, inspirational and immensely annoying. Purely as a successful professional woman, she was a hugely important symbol of change. But although I really enjoyed writing about such a Dickensian character, her influence is probably exaggerated.

**Are there any other characters who you think are important in this story?**

One of the great things about this period is that it was so rich in characters. Many of Thatcher's ministers, such as Michael Heseltine and Norman Tebbit, were wonderfully opinionated, colourful figures. On the Labour side you had titanic figures such as Michael Foot, Tony Benn and Denis Healey, as well as Roy Jenkins,

Shirley Williams and David Owen, who split to form the Social Democratic Party. I have some fun with Ken Livingstone, then the rising star of the London left. But I also devote a lot of time to people like Clive Sinclair, Ian Botham and Steve Davis. Gary Numan, Simon Le Bon, Kenneth Williams – they're all there.

**Your book includes a fair number of social divisions. What were the most important?**

Britain was, I think, much more divided in the early 1980s than it is today. The calamitous recession, which came on top of a broader crisis of industrial working-class life, divided the country into winners and losers. For some

people, this was an age of immense opportunity, an era of microwaves, video recorders and double-glazing. But it was also an era when unemployment went through the roof and entire communities felt broken and abandoned. So it's an enormously complicated picture, but a fascinating one, too – and one that feels very compelling today.

**How would you like this book to change people's views of these years, and the way in which they still inform the present?**

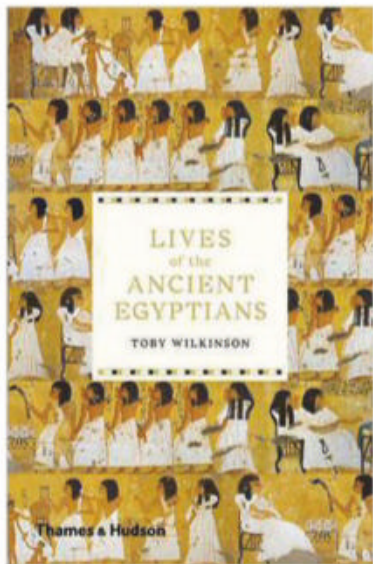
I think this was the decisive moment in the history of our lifetimes. For the previous 30 years the prevailing narrative, by and large, had been one of national decline,

reaching a nadir in the Winter of Discontent (1978-9). At first Thatcher seemed to make everything even worse. But the Falklands War marked a kind of psychological break in our national narrative. It revived a latent patriotic populism, a pride in Britain's past and supposedly unique destiny. I don't think it's a stretch to trace a line from the flag-waving crowds in the summer of 1982 to the current debates about our place in the world.



“The calamitous recession divided the country into winners and losers”



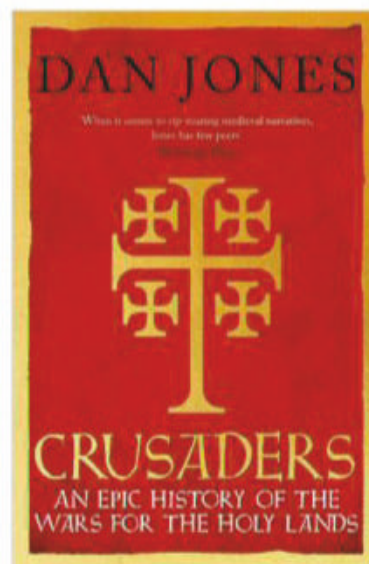


## Lives of the Ancient Egyptians

By Toby Wilkinson

Thames and Hudson, £9.99, paperback, 304 pages

If you don't know your Hatshepsut from your Imhotep, or are confused by which Ramesses is which, Toby Wilkinson can help. This guide introduces you through the diverse luminaries of Ancient Egypt through a vibrant collection of biographies. Each profile is just a few pages long, offering insight into their lives and achievements; as a whole, they paint a vivid portrait of a civilisation of extraordinary scope.



## Crusaders: An Epic History of the Wars for the Holy Lands

By Dan Jones

Head of Zeus, £25, paperback, 512 pages

You may have seen him striding around Britain's castles and canals on TV, but here Dan Jones turns his attention further afield, exploring the causes and consequences of the Crusades – a series of wars fought for control of the Holy Land throughout the Middle Ages. Jones is a lively, engaging writer, and this is a great introduction to a centuries-long conflict that still shapes geopolitics today.



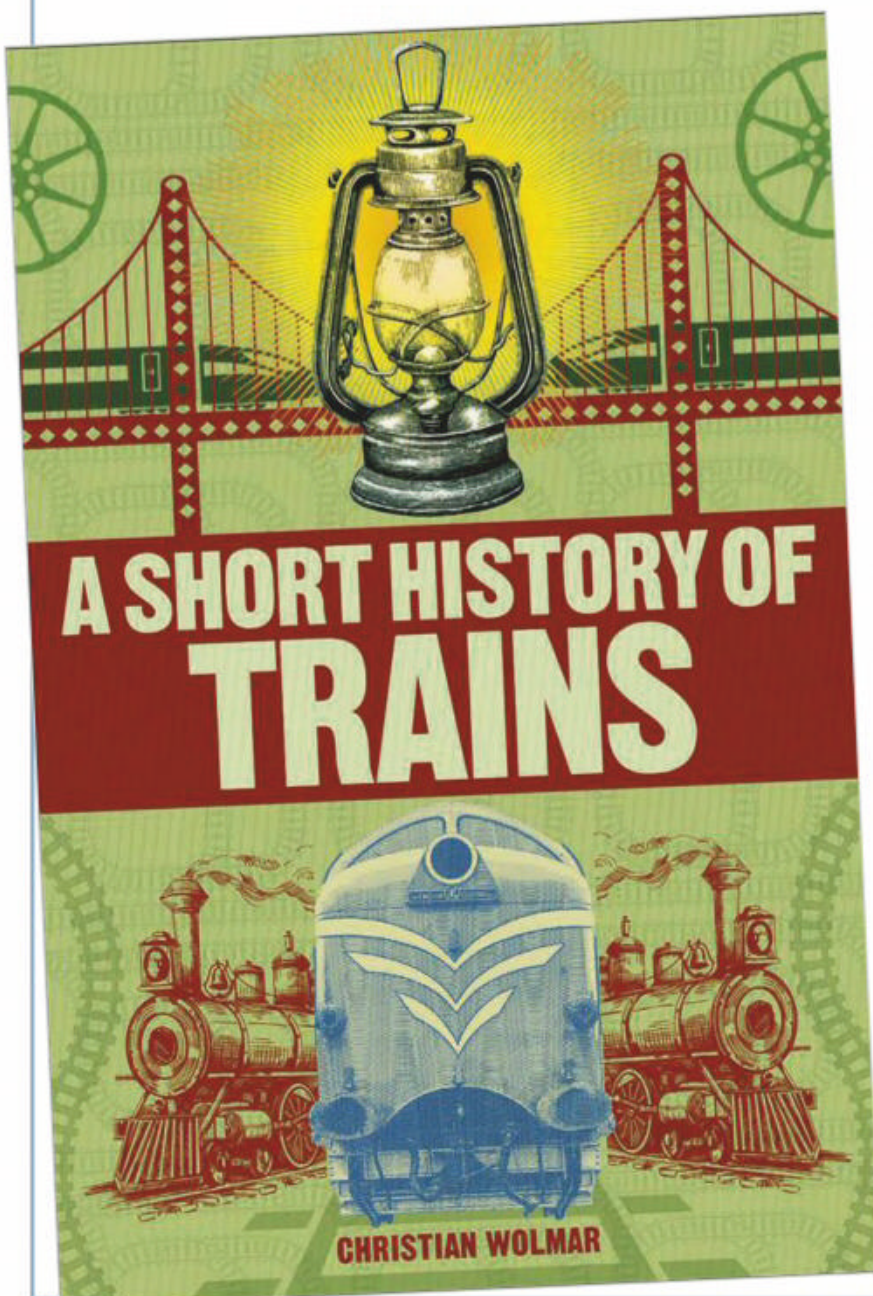
HISTORICAL FICTION

## The Devil's Slave

By Tracy Borman

Hodder & Stoughton, £16.99, paperback, 432 pages

April 1606: Frances Gorges has returned to her family estate following the end of her relationship with one of the conspirators in the previous year's Gunpowder Plot. Yet fans of Tracy Borman's 2018 novel *The King's Witch* will be pleased to hear that this sequel has just as much drama and intrigue in store for its heroine, as she is lured back into a world of conspiracy and court intrigue...

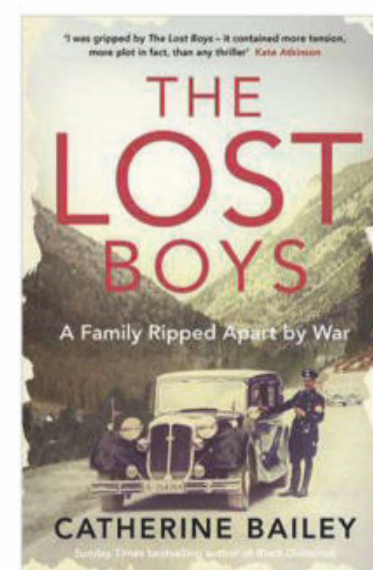


## A Short History of Trains

By Christian Wolmar

Dorling Kindersley, £9.99, 400 pages, paperback

Mixing traditional narrative with elements of a visual-history book, this chronicle of railway development around the world offers a suitably whistle-stop overview. The usual stopping points are here – there's plenty on Stephenson and steampower – but there's also a surprising amount of detail about lesser-known aspects of this story, as the author ventures into the American 'transcontinentals' and the railways of World War I.



## The Lost Boys: A Family Ripped Apart by War

By Catherine Bailey

Viking, £20, paperback, 480 pages

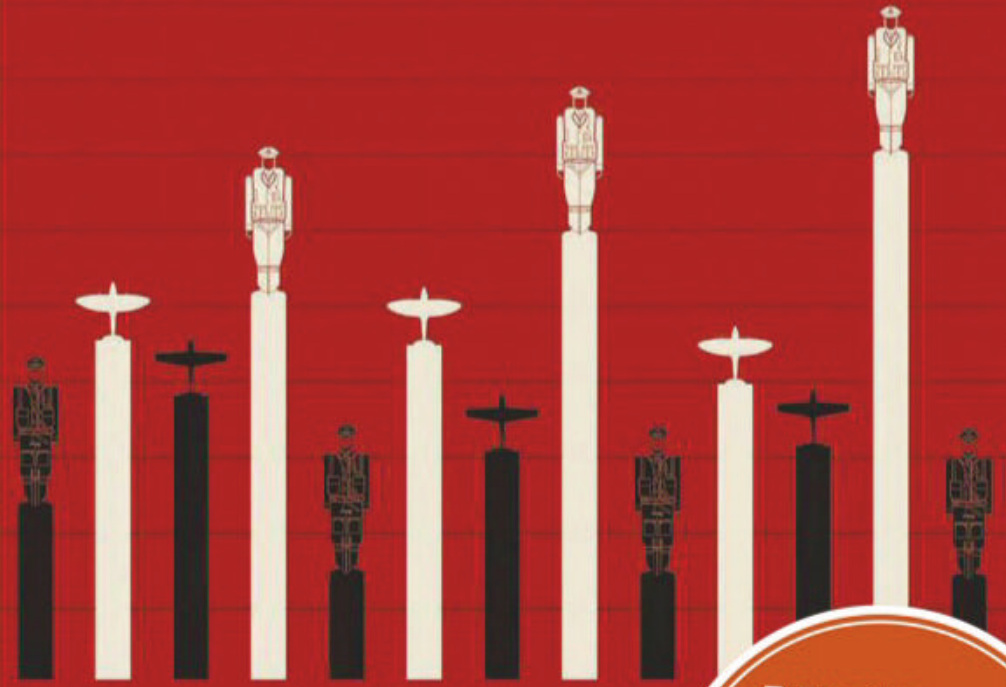
The failure of 1944's 20 July plot, which saw conspirators attempt to kill Hitler with a bomb-laden briefcase, was to have dire consequences for those involved – and their families. Catherine Bailey explores how the lives of Ulrich von Hassell and his family were forever changed by the retribution that followed. It's both a compelling study of the Nazi regime and a moving testament to one mother's efforts to be reunited with her children.



JEAN LOPEZ x NICOLAS AUBIN x VINCENT BERNARD x NICOLAS GUILLERAT

# WORLD WAR II INFOGRAPHICS

WITH A FOREWORD BY JONATHAN FENBY



Thames & Hudson

**VISUAL  
BOOK  
OF THE  
MONTH**

## World War II Infographics

By Jean Lopez, Nicolas Aubin, Vincent Bernard, Nicolas Guillerat

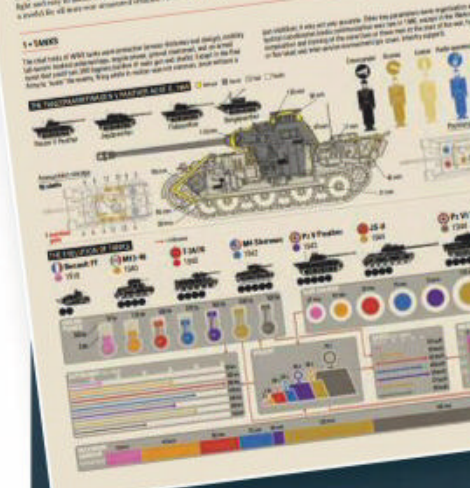
Thames and Hudson, £29.95, hardback, 192 pages

This visual history of World War II is absolutely packed with detail, presenting readers with a wealth of data about the conflict in a rich, visually appealing way. Covering everything from specific theatres of war and the casualties around the world to effectiveness of different types of military hardware, its maps, charts and infographics offer a genuinely fresh look at a period of the 20th century that reshaped the world.

**“Covers everything  
from specific  
theatres of war  
and the casualties  
around the world”**

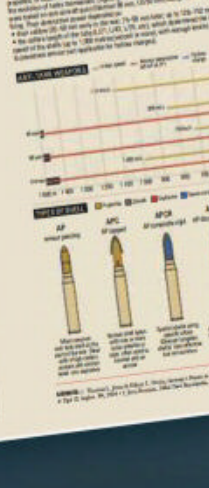
### TANKS AND ANTI-TANK WEAPONRY

When tanks first appeared in the middle of the First World War, they were heavy, slow and unreliable. By the time they were used in the Second World War, they had become much more sophisticated. The tank was a key element of the modern warfare, and its development was a constant process. The tank was a key element of the modern warfare, and its development was a constant process. The tank was a key element of the modern warfare, and its development was a constant process.



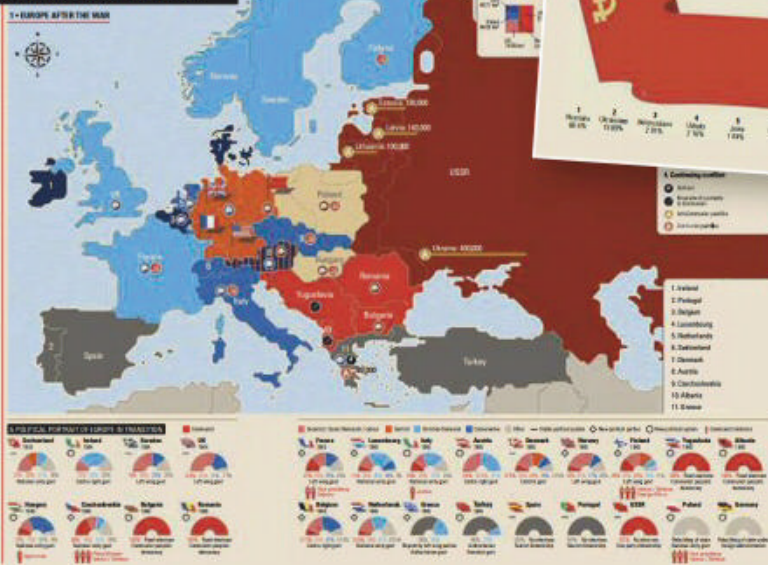
### 2-ANTI-TANK WEAPONS

Whether it was a tank or a tank destroyer, the anti-tank weapon was a key element of the modern warfare. The anti-tank weapon was a key element of the modern warfare, and its development was a constant process. The anti-tank weapon was a key element of the modern warfare, and its development was a constant process.



### THE DAWN OF THE COLD WAR IN EUROPE

The conflict between Western democracy and the USSR did not end with the Second World War. The conflict between Western democracy and the USSR did not end with the Second World War. The conflict between Western democracy and the USSR did not end with the Second World War. The conflict between Western democracy and the USSR did not end with the Second World War. The conflict between Western democracy and the USSR did not end with the Second World War.



### 4-LOSSES BY NATIONALITY

The losses by nationality were a key element of the modern warfare. The losses by nationality were a key element of the modern warfare, and its development was a constant process. The losses by nationality were a key element of the modern warfare, and its development was a constant process.



Information is presented  
in new and interesting  
ways on every page



# READERS' LETTERS

Get in touch – share your opinions on history and our magazine

## NEED FOR SPEED

I don't want to belittle Roger Bannister's stupendous achievement, but to describe his sub four-minute mile as "something no human had ever managed before" (50 *Giant Leaps in History*, August 2019) smacks of Western and temporal elitism. I like to imagine a distant

Perhaps "something no human had ever been recorded as doing before" would have been a

**LETTER OF THE MONTH**

**"I like to imagine an ancestor running a four-minute mile ahead of a sabre-toothed tiger"**

ancestor running a four-minute mile ahead of a herd of charging wildebeest or sabre-toothed tiger.

better way of describing it – but I suppose even that assumes there's not a buried papyrus scroll waiting to

## OMITTED OUTLAWS

My wife and I thoroughly enjoy your magazine. She was never a history buff, but your publication brings it to life and she reads every page. That said, I have a definite problem with your recent article on the Wild West (July 2019).

Some of the most interesting examples of the past lawlessness in the American West were never touched on in the feature. Here are a few examples I would

have liked to have seen covered in the piece:

- John Wesley Hardin, said to have killed over 40 men
- The deadly bank raids at Coffeerville and Northfield that resulted in the death of quite a few outlaws.
- Alder Gulch and the vigilante uprising that resulted in the hanging of the Plummer gang.

Some other names that might have inspired interest among

readers are: Ben Thompson, Bat Masterson, Clay Allison, Tom Horn, Black Jack Ketchum and the Younger brothers.

✉ **Richard Bergman**, Wisconsin

## WHAT ABOUT THE WHEEL?

With reference to your 50 *Giant Leaps in History* feature (August 2019), I would have thought that the invention of the wheel around 3500 BC was one of the greatest leaps forward in human history.

✉ **Keith Barker**, Devon

## MEN IN TIGHTS

You can tell its the summer season and a time of fun and leisure when the magazine features 'men in tights' – ie Robin Hood and his famous band of Merry Men

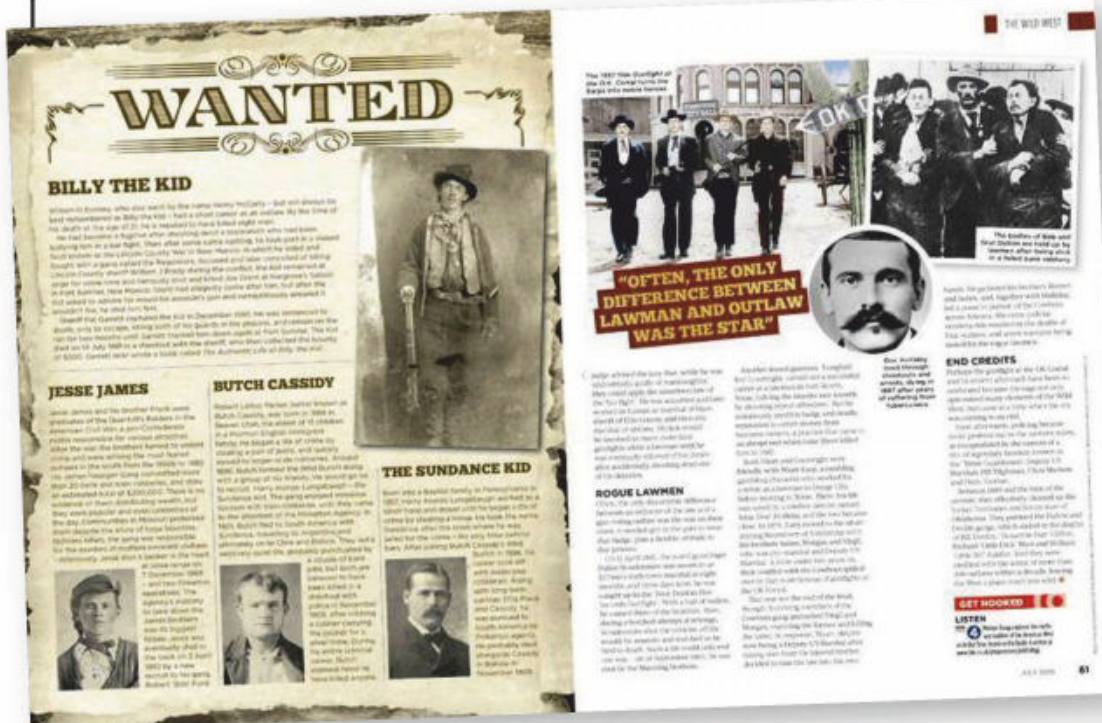
**WANTED!**  
Richard would have liked to read about other bandits of the Wild West



**RUNNING MAN**  
Was Roger Bannister really the first person in history to run a four-minute mile? Unlikely



George receives a copy of *Rise and Fall: A History of the World in Ten Empires* by Paul Strathern







## MAN IN TIGHTS

Richard Greene (centre) as a 1960s Robin Hood

the name of the game then it still can pull in an audience of armchair critics. Some of the characters in it went on to better things in the 1970s and 80s.

The Canadian actor Richard Greene has long since died, but no one born in the 50s and 60s still living can forget the opening sequence where the music plays and Robin Hood draws his bow and lets his arrow fly into a tree. They say every picture should tell a story and this portrayal, which was normally repeated

in a weekly series, certainly brings the legend of Robin Hood to mind.

✉ **Duncan McVee**, Darwen

### CORRECTIONS

• In *This Month in History* (September 2019), we stated that Henry VIII repaired his fractured relationship with his daughters, Mary and Elizabeth, in 1453. It should, of course, have been 1543. In the same piece, we incorrectly dated Edward VI's death to 1533 instead of 1553. Thanks to readers who pointed these errors out.

## PICTURE POSTCARD



Thanks to Lis Van Harten from Michigan, US, who emailed us this photograph of Kanturk Castle in County Cork, taken on a family holiday earlier this year. Lis receives a copy of *Civilisations: First Contact/The Cult of Progress* by David Olusoga.



If you'd like to share your thoughts and images of a historical trip you've made – and possibly be featured on our Letters page – send them to us using the details in Get in Touch (to the right).

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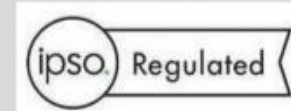
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## ARE YOU A WINNER?

The lucky winners of the crossword from issue 70 are:

**A Coghlan**, Morecambe  
**A Wright**, Godmanchester  
**R Damsell**, Bridgend

Congratulations! You've each won a copy of Caroline Taggart's *Bognor and Other Regises* in hardback.

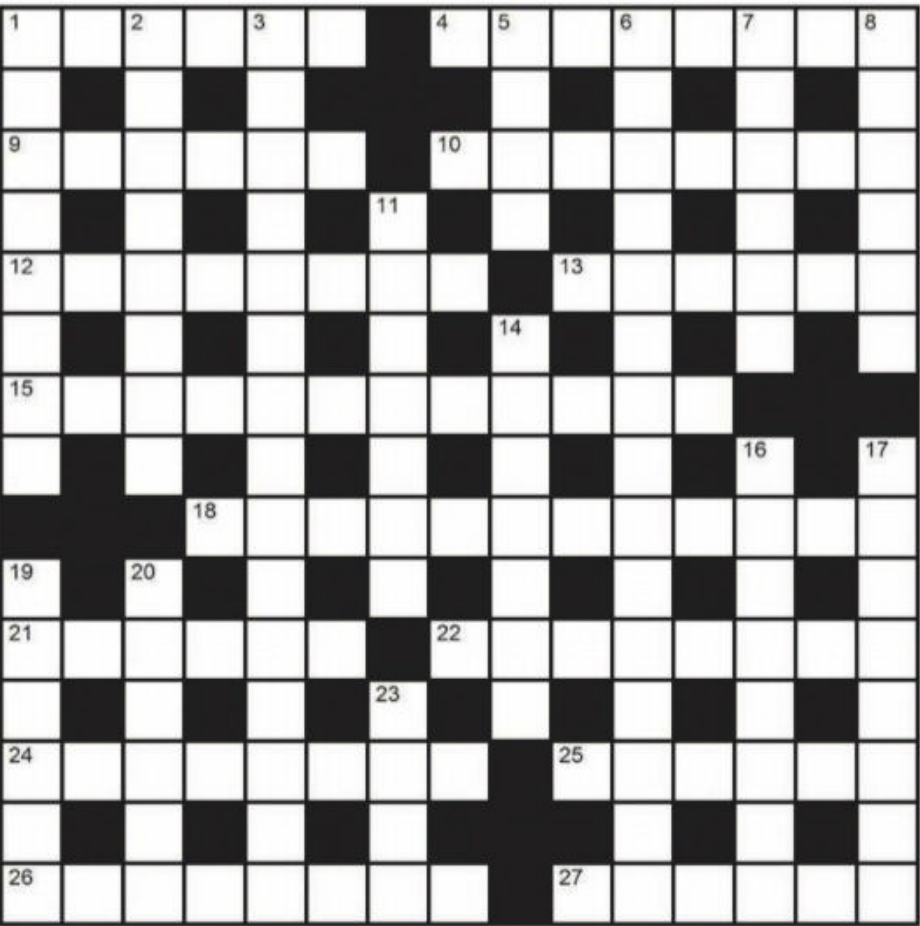




CROSSWORD N° 73

Test your history knowledge to solve our prize puzzle – and you could win a fantastic new book

Set by Richard Smyth



ACROSS

- 1 \_\_\_\_ Yousafzai (b1997), Pakistani activist and Nobel Peace Prize laureate (6)  
4 Spencer \_\_\_\_ (1762–1812), Prime Minister, assassinated by John Bellingham (8)  
9 In Greek myth, the wise king of Pylos (6)  
10 Welsh industrial town once known as ‘Tinopolis’ (8)  
12 Brooklyn neighbourhood, known to 17th-century Dutch settlers as Midwout (8)  
13 Curie, Cardin or Trudeau, perhaps (6)  
15 1937 novella by John Steinbeck (2,4,3,3)  
18 Major industrial protest in the UK, 1984–85 (6,6)  
21 “Man is a noble \_\_\_\_” – Sir

- Thomas Browne, 1658 (6)  
22 Paul-Marie \_\_\_\_ (1844–96), French poet (8)  
24 The opiate of the masses, according to Karl Marx (8)  
25 White fur, symbolic of the UK peerage (6)  
26 Offence defined in the 1907 Hague Convention (3,5)  
27 City founded in 1788 by the First Fleet (6)

DOWN

- 1 Biblically, a title of respect given to a (male) prophet or religious leader (3,2,3)  
2 Soldiers of the Persian ruler Cambyses II, reputedly buried by desert sands (4,4)  
3 1956 realist play by John Osborne (4,4,2,5)

- 5 Jazz singer Fitzgerald or music hall star Shields, say (4)  
6 Military force under George Washington in the American Revolutionary War (11,4)  
7 Paul \_\_\_\_ (1871–1945), French author, nominated 12 times for the Nobel Prize in Literature (6)  
8 Historic university city in the Netherlands (6)  
11/23 The \_\_\_\_, 1960 novel by Lynne Reid Banks (1-6,4)  
14 Epic poem attributed to Greek author Homer (7)  
16 The \_\_\_\_ Expedition, Athenian military operation of 415–413 BC (8)  
17 Highgate in London or Calvary in New York (8)  
19 London school founded by royal charter in 1572 (6)  
20 Seminal 1952 biography by Alan Bullock, subtitled *A Study In Tyranny* (6)  
23 See 11 Down

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The competition is open to all UK residents (inc. Channel Islands), aged 18 or over, except Immediate Media Co Bristol Ltd employees or contractors, and anyone connected with the competition or their direct family members. By entering, participants agree to be bound by these terms and conditions and that their name and county may be released if they win. Only one entry per person.

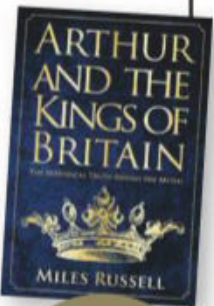
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CHANCE TO WIN

Arthur and the Kings of Britain  
by Miles Russell

The 12th-century chronicler Geoffrey of Monmouth’s great work, *History of the Kings of Britain*, is regarded as pseudohistory – full of fantastical and fabricated elements – but Dr Miles Russell finds the kernels of fact within its pages and shines a light on the so-called Dark Ages. Published by Amberley Publishing, £9.99.



BOOK WORTH £9.99 FOR THREE WINNERS

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Post entries to **BBC History Revealed, October 2019 Crossword, PO Box 501, Leicester LE94 0AA** or email them to [october2019@historyrevealedcomps.co.uk](mailto:october2019@historyrevealedcomps.co.uk) by noon on **1 November 2019**.

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SOLUTION N° 71



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**NEXT MONTH**

**ON SALE 3 OCTOBER**

# **GOLD RUSH**

What was life really like as a  
19th-century fortune hunter?



## **ALSO NEXT MONTH...**

**WALL STREET CRASH** NICHOLAS WINTON: THE  
BRITISH SCHINDLER **BRITAIN'S HAUNTED HISTORY**  
EDWARDIANS IN EGYPT **MEDIEVAL RELICS: ICON**  
**OR CON?** THE RISE OF THE SAMURAI **EINSTEIN'S**  
**MIRACLE YEAR** AND MUCH MORE...

GETTY IMAGES

**BBC**  
**HISTORY**  
**REVEALED**



# FROM THE ARCHIVES

Moments from history, told through the BBC



BACK ROW (l-r): **Graham Chapman, Eric Idle, Terry Gilliam**  
FRONT ROW (l-r): **Terry Jones, John Cleese, Michael Palin**

## IT'S... MONTY PYTHON'S FLYING CIRCUS, 1969

In 1969, six up-and-coming comedic actors and writers – five British and one American – gathered in 1969 at the Light of Kashmir Tandoori restaurant in Hampstead, London, to talk about a television series they wanted to make. Nobody but them expected the result (or the Spanish Inquisition): *Monty Python's Flying Circus*, which first aired on BBC One 50 years ago, on 5 October. Each episode was an unpredictable, nonsensical, surrealist stream of consciousness; a rule-breaking amalgamation of sketches and animations by Terry Gilliam (*top right*) – and it was just what audiences wanted. The Monty Python troupe became, and remains, such an influence on comedy that 'pythonesque' is now a byword for absurdist humour.

GETTY IMAGES

**BBC**

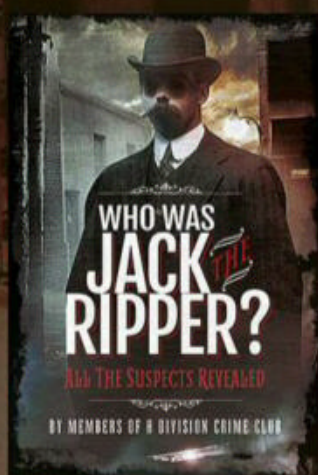
To mark the 50th anniversary, the BBC has a host of TV and radio specials as part of a 'Monty Python at 50' season in September and up to 5 October





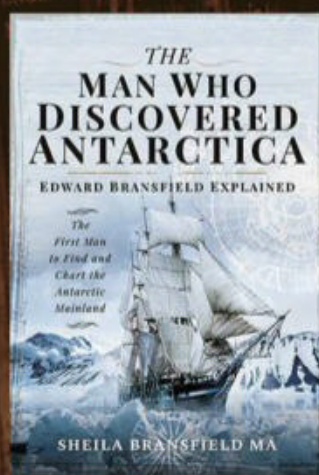
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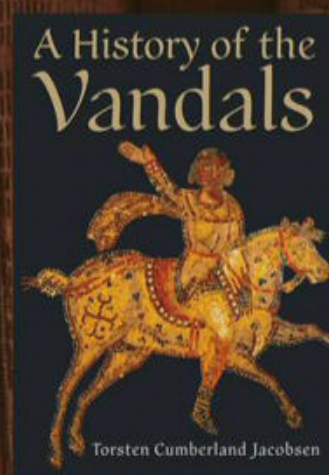
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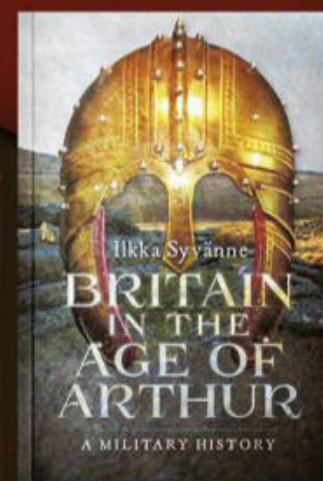
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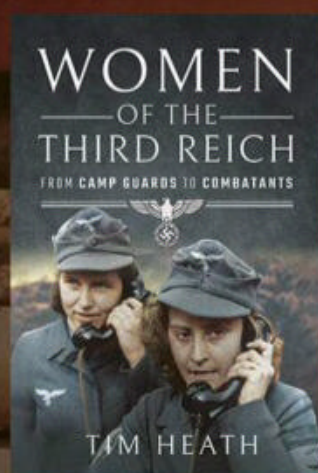
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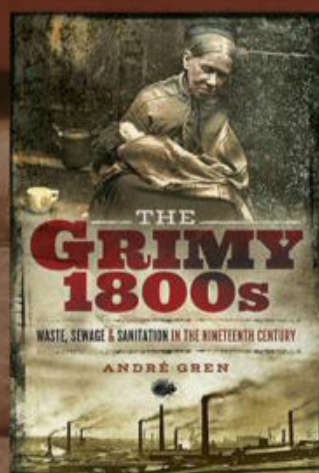
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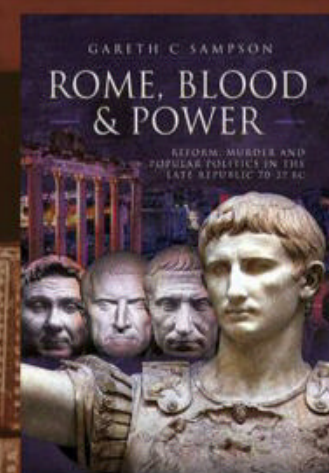
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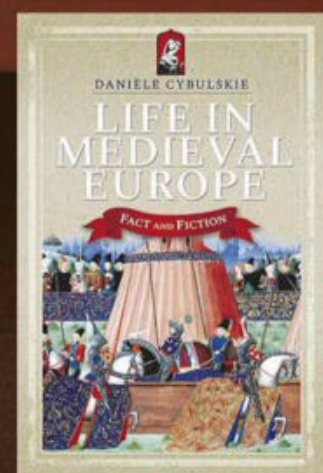
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